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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Yemen, Libyan-Western Crisis, Iraq

NC2206184594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has renewed his call to the Yemeni belligerents to abide by the UN Security Council's cease-fire resolution to safeguard the lives of the Yemeni people and to enter into a constructive dialogue to promote security and stability for the fraternal Yemeni people. He expressed the Arab League's readiness to do its utmost to achieve this goal.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR published today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the fighting between brothers in Yemen has led to divisions and exacerbated the crisis. He expressed the hope that the two sides in Yemen will resume their dialogue as soon as possible.

Asked whether South Yemen has submitted an application to the Arab League to become an independent member, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Yes, it did, but no action has been taken. The application is held in the General Secretariat until the Arab League Council holds its next meeting.

Asked about the internationalization of the Yemeni crisis and the fact that some states prefer to refer Arab problems to the United Nations, the Arab League secretary general pointed out that North Yemen was the one that first objected to Arab League mediation, because, as the Yemeni officials said, this is an internal matter. He said that North Yemen objected not only to Arab League mediation but also to UN mediation.

Regarding the Libyan-Western crisis and whether Libya has accepted the Arab League's proposal to conduct the trial of the suspects at the International Court of Justice in The Hague according to Scottish law and with Scottish judges, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his thanks to the Libyan leadership for accepting this delicate and sensitive political and legal situation. He noted in this regard that the recent Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' conference in Cairo supported this initiative. He said that contacts have been held with UN Security Council member states and the European Union in this regard, and the atmosphere is completely suitable for discussing the means to achieve a peaceful settlement to this problem. He added that this will prevent an escalation of the Libyan-Western crisis in August, sparing the area further tension. He noted that a number of European countries who have interests in Libya do not want an escalation of the crisis and are ready to listen to Libya's views on the issue.

Regarding the embargo on Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed hopes that the embargo will be lifted and that the Iraqi people will enjoy freedom, security, and stability. He said that everything is in the hands of the Iraqi Government. It can ask the UN Security Council to lift the embargo after it implements the UN resolutions, including those concerning recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty, the border demarcation, compensation, and the prisoners.

Regarding Israeli operations in Lebanon, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that what Israel has done and is doing against Lebanon is contrary to peace. He affirmed that Lebanon has the right to defend its territory and to demand the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

He added that if Israel really wants peace in the area, it must stop its actions and embark on serious and effective negotiations to avoid operations by the Lebanese resistance, which is defending itself and trying to end the occupation. This, he said, is a legitimate right that applies to Lebanon, Syria, and the Palestinians, just as it applied in the past to Egypt before the liberation of its national territory.

Russian Envoy Denies Weapons Sent to Southern Yemen

NC2306111294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Russian Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov.

The ambassador said later that on the instructions of the Russian leadership he had requested a meeting with the League's secretary general to exchange views on the latest developments in Yemen.

He pointed out that Russia and the League are cooperating and coordinating their stance on resolving the Yemeni crisis, noting that this cooperation takes a diplomatic and political form.

The Russian ambassador explained that when the war broke out, his country appealed to the warring parties in Yemen to stop fighting and initiate a dialogue to solve their problems.

Polyakov pointed out that Russia's recognition of south Yemen will depend on the findings included in UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's report to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the crisis. He denied reports claiming that Russia is supplying south Yemen with weapons and assistance in view of the close ties linking Moscow with south Yemen in the past.

He said Russia halted all weapons supplies to the Yemeni parties when the Yemeni crisis began and before fighting broke out.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 14 Jun

NC2206135994

[Editorial report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 June issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Developing Curricula To Avoid Preachers' Declining Standards
2. Plan To Fight Extremist Thought
3. U.S. Companies' Conduct Seen as Offense Against Muslims
4. Yemeni Scholar Fatwa Berated
5. Study Draws Attention to Importance of Chinese Muslims
6. Official Sees Japan as Fertile Soil for Islam

DEVELOPING CURRICULA TO AVOID PREACHERS' DECLINING STANDARDS

In his 300-word column "In Truth I Speak" on page 1 Chief Editor Samir Rajab says it is "wrong to assume that the Awqaf Ministry is responsible for the declining standards of preachers and imams or for the narrow-mindedness of some of them, who see nothing but torture, vengeance, and the bald-headed serpent from the grave in our forgiving religion." He explains that these preachers graduate from al-Azhar and that all the ministry does is to distribute them throughout its mosques all over the country after training them.

He says he does not find it surprising that "some of these preachers are sometimes accused of being behind the waves of extremism and violence because of the issues and topics they raise in their sermons, which are often used as a source of income."

To handle the problem, Rajab suggests to al-Azhar that it develop curricula at its institutes, colleges, and schools. He stresses that other "educational, cultural, and sports establishments" must back the security apparatus positively and effectively.

PLAN TO FIGHT EXTREMIST THOUGHT

A 300-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 states that "The Awqaf Ministry has prepared a new plan to refute extremists' allegations and fragile arguments by preparing counter-arguments in response to the books from which they draw their information." According to the report, a working group of 18 specialized scholars in the various areas of thought will list the books the extremists read and provide counter-arguments for every point argued in these "suspicious books" that distort their thinking.

According to the plan, these specialists will teach the arguments to four groups totalling 120 imams working for Awqaf. The working group will start the search for these books on 15 June and lessons will begin next week. The subjects to be studied, explained, and taught include the application of Islamic shari'ah, repudiation, apostasy, preaching good deeds and prohibiting evil, rulings on the permissibility of action, and the treatment of non-Muslims in a Muslim community.

U.S. COMPANIES' CONDUCT SEEN AS OFFENSE AGAINST MUSLIMS

A 300-word report by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on page 21 claims that the famous McDonald hamburger restaurants and Coca Cola are committing a grave offense against Muslims by printing the Saudi Arabian flag, with its characteristic Islamic statement "there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger," on bags and soft drinks cans that are "dumped in wastebaskets or trampled underfoot" after their contents have been consumed.

YEMENI SCHOLAR FATWA BERATED

In the 500-word "In All Frankness" column on page 6 Basyuni al-Halawani maintains that "Yemeni scholars have indulged in a cheap game with some of them trying to plunge Islam into the war of grudges raging on the soil of sad Yemen," giving the enemies of Islam the chance to distort its image.

He notes that Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami, dean of the al-Iman College at Sanaa University and a member of the supreme committee of the "northern" Yemeni Reform Grouping, has made an Islamic ruling on the "permissibility of killing children, women, and old people, burning and destroying public utilities, and seizing the properties of the southerners."

"If he really made that ruling, in the form published by some Arab mass media, then al-Daylami is not fit even to be a mu'adhdhin at a mosque, let alone a dean of al-Iman, faith, and college," al-Halawani contends.

He states that Islam has a clear-cut stance on "wars of grudges motivated by satanic whims" and that there is no need to plunge the name of Islam into such affairs. He regrets that "most Islamic states are afflicted with a type of scholar who always tries to employ Islam to serve the greed and ambition of some Arab rulers."

Stating that scholars' primary duty is to work to close ranks and eliminate grudges, he maintains that "those who volunteer to justify whimsical and criminal conduct that is rejected by Islamic shari'ah are accomplices to evil-doing and aggression and will burn in hell."

STUDY DRAWS ATTENTION TO IMPORTANCE OF CHINESE MUSLIMS

Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim 'Uways writes in a 2,000-word article on page 6 about "Muslims in China: A big Minority Under Communist Control."

Citing conflicting statistics on the number of Muslims in China, he maintains that they are "no fewer than 80 million." He draws Muslims' attention to "enormous human resources" that deserve attention and care, stating that it is in the higher interest of Islam to be in the middle of that "ocean" of Muslims in a country that "might become the first or second power in the world."

Describing Muslims' social and cultural conditions in China as wretched, he goes on to identify a "pressing need to teach Muslims in China and the countries that were in the communist grip the basic principles that link them with the sound creed and pillars of Islam."

For this he suggests measures recommended by a study by Dr. Ahmad Anis, former vice president of the World Islamic Islamabad University. The recommendations include providing imams and Muslims in China with the necessary religious education, helping Chinese and other Muslims learn Arabic as a means of communication with the Islamic world, helping Chinese Muslims to build better Islamic academic establishments all over the country, organizing publications, seminars, and cultural, academic, and intellectual conferences, helping Chinese Muslims understand, preserve, and convey their culture and traditions, and helping them to become good, moral citizens.

OFFICIAL SEES JAPAN AS FERTILE SOIL FOR ISLAM

A 600-word report by Tariq 'Abdallah on page 20 cites Muhammad 'Ashur Hamzah, manager of the Kubah Islamic Center in Tokyo, stating that "Japan is fertile soil for Islam if it is presented with the right image." Hamzah calls on Islamic states and institutions to intensify efforts to promote Islam in Japan by building mosques and Islamic centers and sending trained preachers who have been taught Japanese.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Russian Intelligence Chief Primakov

LD2206175794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] President 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, today received Yevgeniy Primakov, director of foreign intelligence of the Russian Federation, and the delegation accompanying him.

A full review was made of: developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly in the occupied territories; the results thus far of the implementation of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as a means of strengthening the pillars of the Palestinian national authority; the need for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the self-rule territories; as well as the requirements for consolidating the structures of the national authority.

President 'Arafat expressed gratitude for Russia's firm stance in its capacity as one of the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, assessed highly the close relations between Russia and Palestine, and stressed the need for strengthening and developing them.

During the meeting, Primakov reaffirmed his country's firm stance in supporting the peace process and in firmly establishing the basis and structures of the Palestinian National Authority.

Russian Party Official Meets DFLP's Hawatimah

JN2206172294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Viktor Antilov, secretary general of the Russian Communist Workers Party [title as heard], has stressed that the Russian people are standing alongside the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights to self-determination, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and repatriation. He added that the Russian people also support peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

During a meeting with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Antilov also asserted that the people of Russia, as well as its democratic and communist nationalist forces, support the Palestinian people and the Arabs, and that the Russian people will not remain silent on the expansionist Israeli plans.

For his part, Hawatimah asserted that the Oslo-Cairo agreement is doomed to failure because it does not meet the minimum requirements of a peace settlement according to the resolutions of international legitimacy and also because the Israeli occupation and settlements continue to exist in Gaza and Jericho, as do the acts of bloody repression throughout the occupied territories.

'Arafat: Opposition Factions 'Beginning To Retreat'

PM2306101294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p4

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi: " 'Arafat: Opposition Factions Request Participation in the Palestinian Authority"]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has told about 30 members of Fatah's Revolutionary Council that some of the PLO's opposition factions are beginning to retreat from their hardline positions on the joint Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. He added that some of these factions which had opposed the peace process are now asking to join the National Authority Council which has begun running the affairs of government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

At an unexpected meeting of the Revolutionary Council, 'Arafat urged the conferees to return to their homeland

Palestine as soon as possible. He also told them that a World Bank delegation he met with last Friday suggested giving the PLO $10 million out of the $42 million agreed upon at a meeting held in the French capital Paris about two weeks ago, and that he rejected the offer which was a violation of what was agreed and which may be the main reason which has so far delayed 'Arafat's return to Palestine. The PLO is believed to be in dire need of the funds to make the necessary preparations for the work of all the institutions which almost begin from zero.

According to some members of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the largest Palestinian faction, 'Arafat, in a speech to the conferees, talked about the issue of human rights in Palestine. He said that the people who suffered occupation, coercion, and humiliation, hundreds of thousands of whom suffered detention in Israeli detention camps and some of whom were tortured and killed by Israeli soldiers, were entitled to full freedom in an atmosphere of democracy and partisan plurality. He stressed the need for the consolidation and development of the Palestinian Human Rights Committee which has so far been operating in Tunisia awaiting transfer to Palestinian territory. He said that the committee could be developed because it is closer to understanding the people's needs. That was seen as a veiled criticism of the Citizens Rights Committee headed by Hanan 'Ashrawi who had, for two years, worked as spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation. 'Arafat put more emphasis on the need to provide two fundamental elements, namely security and bread, citing the Koranic verse "feed their hunger and safeguard them against fear." He said that the initial days of the Palestinian Authority in what is known as the autonomy areas showed that the Palestinian National Authority must start from zero in security and economic sectors, and even the simplest services. At the meeting, which was attended by Major General Nasr [Yusuf], commander of the Palestinian police forces, 'Arafat ordered that no Palestinian citizen should be arrested, not even on spying charges, without reference to the official authorities. That remark was aimed at some factions which are trying to set up a parallel authority. Major General Yusuf, who submitted a comprehensive report on security in Gaza and Jericho, spoke in detail about his experience since assuming his post, especially in the Gaza Strip. He listed the positive and negative aspects and stressed the need to control the situation and contain all problems. He said that despite the meager available resources, a good mechanism has been put into operation, thanks to the solidarity and support of the masses.

According to Fatah sources, 'Arafat gave instructions that the committees which had been formed by the Revolutionary Council at its latest session should begin their work. Three committees will in fact begin their work as of Saturday in his personal presence. They are the committees for the unification of organizational rules, assessment of available qualifications, and popular organizations.

'Arafat, Delegation Discuss Need for Financial Aid

LD2206190594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] President 'Arafat and his delegation discussed the latest developments in the occupied territories and the need to hasten the provision of all kinds of assistance required for starting the reconstruction process and building of the structures of the Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule territories.

The meeting was attended by brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], brother (Hail Fahhum) and brother Abu-Karsh.

Security Agencies Ordered to Stop Internal Struggles

TA2206175094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have informed our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has issued instructions to the Palestinian security agencies in Gaza and Jericho to be in direct contact with him and that no agency should interfere in the affairs of another.

Our correspondent says that security offices were opened recently in Jericho in addition to the preventive security office headed by Colonel Jibril al-Rujub. Among these is a presidential security office headed by Abu-al-Tayyib, a former Force-17 commander, and a general security office headed by Amin al-Hindi. 'Arafat issued his orders in the wake of internal struggles between these agencies.

Security Chief: 'Arafat Visit Not Before Mid-Jul

TA2206163194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Jibril al-Rujub, who is head of Palestinian security in the self-rule area, says Yasir 'Arafat will not come to Gaza and Jericho before the middle of next month. The reason for this is that the countries pledging aid to the autonomous regions appear to be in no hurry to make good their pledges for establishing an infrastructure in the areas. Al-Rujub said also that the issue of the release of Palestinian prisoners and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] security procedures at checkpoints were contributing to 'Arafat's decision to delay his departure. The Palestinian security chief pointed to recent incidents involving PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th. Al-Rujub said Sha'th was delayed twice at IDF security barriers and only allowed to move on after the deputy chief of staff intervened.

Israel Approves Return of 84 PCC Members

JN2206154494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jun 94 pp 28, 25

[Article by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Israel has informed the PLO that it has approved the return of 84 of the 104 members of the

PLO Central Council [PCC]. The approved list of returnees includes Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, Sulayman al-Najjab, Jamal al-Surani, Taysir Khalid, 'Abdallah Hurani, Salim al-Za'nun, Ibrahim Bakr, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Khalid al-Hasan, Dr. Walid Mustafa, Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash, and others.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli list of approved returnees excludes Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

Also excluded are Taysir Qub'ah, PNC and PCC deputy speaker, and Muhammad Subayh, PNC and PCC secretary.

Five of the PLO Executive Committee members, who are also PCC members, have also been excluded from the approved list. They are poet Mahmud Darwish (independent), Bishop Iliya Khuri (independent), 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh (representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP), Dr. Samir Ghawshah (representative of the Popular Struggle Front) and 'Ali Ishaq (representative of the Arab Liberation Front).

It is also worth noting that Bishop Iliya Khuri is a deportee, while poet Mahmud Darwish was a citizen in the Palestinian territory occupied in 1948, but he left in the early seventies to join the Palestinian revolution.

Also excluded from the list were Abu-'Ali Mustafa and Ahmad Fu'ad, PFLP representatives on the PCC; Saji Salamah and Salih Zaydan, representatives of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nasif 'Awwad, representative of the Arab Liberation Front; and Salih Ra'fat and 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation Party] representatives. This is despite the fact that the names of FIDA representatives were mentioned in the Israeli authorities' recent lists of Palestinian officials.

The list also includes names of people who returned with earlier groups of deportees, including B'ir Zayt University President Dr. Hanna Nasir, 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, Fa'iq Warrad, and Taysir 'Aruri.

AL-RA'Y has learned that the Palestinian leadership in Tunis has instructed its personnel to delay their return in order to arrange it in an adequate manner. [passage omitted]

Prisoners in West Bank Jail End Hunger Strike

TA2306071494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The hunger strike of the Palestinian prisoners in Junayd Prison in Samaria is over. They staged a strike to protest the fact that the PLO has abandoned their cause. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has learned from Prison Service sources that the 600 Palestinian prisoners ended their strike last night and had breakfast this morning.

Al-Husayni's Orient House Institutions Viewed

TA1806055894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 10 Jun 94 pp 7, 26

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] At the beginning of the week, Police Minister Moshe Shahal invited Faysal al-Husayni and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad to a meeting at the home of his assistant Moshe Sason in Rehavya, Jerusalem. Seemingly another encounter of the Israeli-Palestinian committee on Jerusalem affairs. This time, however, Shahal was not planning to hold a discussion, but rather to convey a clear-cut message. "The agreement stipulates that the Palestinian administration's institutions will be located in Jericho. That is where you belong. I warn you on behalf of the prime minister," Shahal stressed, "that if Orient House turns into a governing institution serving the autonomy, we will be forced to take action against it. Israel will not tolerate any independent Palestinian policing activities in Jerusalem. We will not hesitate to take punitive action."

Al-Husayni tried to defend himself. "We have no intention of establishing a governing institution, we plan to provide the residents with services and to maintain ties with consuls. And why should you have problems with our guards?" al-Husayni asked innocently, "Did we not refuse your offer of guns?"

The next day both sides flexed their muscles. Shahal dispatched four Border Police jeeps and placed them demonstratively at the Orient House gates, while al-Husayni, in an attempt to highlight the Orient House aims, invited all consuls based in East Jerusalem to a special briefing. On Monday night, al-Husayni organized a rally of solidarity with Jerusalem at Orient House, and on Tuesday afternoon, acting in perfect sync with the media, he invited East Jerusalem homeowners who had received house demolition notices, to lodge complaints against the Israeli orders.

On Wednesday morning, totally ignoring the political storm around Peres' letter on the issue of Jerusalem—and perhaps for spite—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi announced the establishment of the Palestinian Citizens Rights Society in Jerusalem. The committee's headquarters are, of course, in Orient House.

Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, the Palestinians announced even before negotiations on the city's future were launched. The PLO started investing efforts in strengthening the city's Arab-Islamic status as well as its political status as early as in mid-1970's. In early 1980's, dozens of institutions, organizations, and research bodies were ordered to launch operations inside Jerusalem; they were even granted appropriate financial backing. In parallel, the PLO invested ample funds to establish an alternative to the Israeli rule in the city.

The Israeli defense establishment was aware of the process even before the intifadah. Reports were written,

warnings relayed, declarations made. In practice, almost nothing was done to block this political development.

When the Israeli public representatives woke up this week, it was too late. The facts that had been established in East Jerusalem made the city a Palestinian political center.

Faysal al-Husayni said this week that the battle for Jerusalem has been launched. "Al-Husayni is right," prime minister's bureau sources said, "it is a war for the city. The Palestinians will have no choice, they will have to honor the agreement and move all autonomy-serving Jerusalem institutions to Jericho."

Rabin did declare war on these institutions, but the publication of Peres' letter to Jorgen Holst, the late Norwegian foreign minister, bungled the issue. The Palestinians flaunted the letter, which legitimized the activities of East Jerusalem institutions established prior to the Oslo agreement. (By the way, no new institutions were established last year because of the PLO's empty coffers, not because of the agreement.) Moreover, the letter promised to encourage the development of these institutions.

The opposition—most notably Beni Begin—raged and fumed. Ari'el Sharon failed to understand the brouhaha. All these institutions were established in the Likud era, he said. The Orient House building acquired the status of the "nascent Palestinian government house" during the Likud era.

The building, owned by the al-Husayni family, was built at the end of the previous century. It was a lodge and a hotel for many years. In early 1980's, al-Husayni used it to house the Center for Arab Studies. On a Shin Bet recommendation, the Central Command commander used a special warrant to close the building at the beginning of the intifadah. In August 1990, the warrant expired. Those were the pre-Gulf-war days. The defense chiefs were so preoccupied with their fear of Iraqi Scud missiles that they forgot to renew the warrant.

In the wake of Baker's shuttle tour and the start of negotiations that were to lead to the Madrid Conference, Orient House assumed a patently political character. The "territories PLO" established its command in the building, which became the Palestinian delegation's official residence. It was used for working sessions and news conferences. It was—and still is—used for fax and telephone communication with the PLO.

The technical teams—working groups, each of which was assigned a topic—that were established as quasi-ministries of the incipient Palestinian government, were also stationed in the building. Computer and telephone systems were installed. Secretaries, clerks, and economic, administrative, and legal experts filled the rooms. The Palestinian diplomatic section, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, was also stationed in the building. Consuls based in East Jerusalem began making pilgrimages to the house. They were followed by Tel-Aviv-based ambassadors, foreign ministers, and foreign delegations.

About two years ago, after Faysal al-Husayni declared the establishment of the Palestinian shadow government, its members dispersed throughout the building. Since they now required security arrangements, a security officer was appointed. A fence was put up, an electric fence was installed. Fatah youths were hired as guards, becoming the first nucleus of the Palestinian police in the territories. On al-Husayni's recommendation, they were sent for special training with the Jordanian police, where they learned weapons handling. Nowadays the building is guarded 24 hours a day. All visitors, including reporters, are inspected by security guards. A large antenna for the Jerusalem-PLO wireless communication system was installed on the roof.

On 13 September 1993, the day the Oslo agreement was signed, the Palestinian flag was flown from the Orient House flagpole in a festive ceremony. It has been there ever since. After the Hebron massacre, it was lowered to half mast. When the Japanese foreign minister visited the building three weeks ago, the Japanese and Palestinian flags were flown side by side, in accordance with the rules of diplomatic etiquette. A parliamentary delegation from Turkey visited Orient House a few days ago and a joint cooperation agreement between Palestine and France was signed there 10 days ago.

This week, Prime Minister Rabin finally decided to put an end to this PLO enclave inside Jerusalem. He asked the attorney general to examine legal steps to stop the activities at Orient House. Rabin did not rule out the possibility of asking the Knesset to enact legislation barring any non-governmental bodies from conducting foreign relations from territory within the State of Israel. Rabin would encounter no problem in trying to pass such legislation. The Likud would give him its full support.

Defense establishment officials this week said: "It is true that this building was in operation before the Oslo agreement. The problem, however, is that its activities have been imbued with new content." The officials explained that "an attempt is being made, also as part of the internal Palestinian power struggles waged by Faysal al-Husayni, to strengthen the status of Jerusalem vis a vis Gaza and Jericho. Al-Husayni is also trying to set up a private police force." The officials cautioned: "One must be alert to these developments before it is too late."

Al-Hakawati theater—the Palestinian national stage—is a short walk away from Orient House. Although the hall was originally built for theatrical companies, it has mainly served as a national conference hall, sort of like a Palestinian version of Jerusalem's Binyeney Ha'uma hall. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], women's and student organizations from all over the territories, as well as Fatah all hold conventions there.

The theater blossomed during the Likud's tenure. Even then, the theater building, much like Orient House, attained a special status: the police never burst into the hall when the Palestinian flag was flown there, or when the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] held its conventions. The policemen always stayed in the courtyard.

The offices of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC] are on an adjacent street. PBC Chairman Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, and his team of advisers are currently preparing Palestinian radio and television broadcasts. These broadcasts, of course, will not be restricted to the residents of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. This office also serves as the Palestinian government press office. For example, it is responsible for issuing special press cards to journalists, Israelis as well, who want to enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The office provides information services, and whenever necessary, transportation, translation services, and escorts.

The Palestinian economic office, PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction], which is in charge of economic development and building the Palestinian economic infrastructure, is located in north Jerusalem, in the Dahiyat al-Barid neighborhood. This office is currently preparing the autonomy's budget and is already allocating sums that have yet to arrive from European countries and the United States. PECDAR is formulating plans, at this stage, for economic projects in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The Palestinian medical infrastructure has also been set up in Jerusalem. It includes the Higher Palestinian Council for Health in East Jerusalem, the national al-Maqasid Hospital on the Mount of Olives, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which is located not far from Orient House. The General Federation of Palestinian Charity Organizations, one of the most important institutions in Palestinian society in the territories, operates similar to the Israeli National Insurance Institute and channels contributions from abroad to the residents of the territories. The monies are transferred from the federation's offices in Jerusalem to local charity organizations throughout the territories, including in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Bayt Hanina is home to the General Federation of Trade Unions—the Palestinians' own Histadrut labor federation.

Palestinian housing affairs are handled by the higher Palestinian council on housing, which is located near the Israeli construction and housing minister's bureau. This office will soon receive a large budget for building in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Recently, it has begun construction on a housing project near Jabalyah, using funds contributed by the EC before the Oslo agreement. In Jericho, land has already been allocated for the construction of a housing complex.

Jerusalem is also home to "al-Quds University," which, at this stage, only comprises several buildings scattered around the city. However, plans for the national campus have already been made. The higher education council also has offices in Jerusalem. Even Gaza's Islamic University has a liaison office in the eastern part of the city. The higher Palestinian councils on tourism, industry, culture, and information are all located in East Jerusalem. These constitute, for all practical intents and purposes, the ministries of the incipient Palestinian state.

Jerusalem also houses the Palestinian organizations which wage the political and public relations battles: the various research institutes, newspaper offices, the associations of Palestinian students and writers, the Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations, and a large computerized translation institute.

The United States and six European countries maintain consulates in East Jerusalem, which serve as conduits for the marketing of the political struggle. Naturally, it is easy for the Palestinians to maintain political activity in Jerusalem. Israeli law, which applies to Jerusalem, is far more flexible than the military orders in the territories. There are no curfews in Jerusalem. There is no army. The telecommunications systems are more developed. No restrictions are put on conventions and rallies as in the territories.

When Palestinian functionaries from Hebron, Nabulus, or even Gaza decide to launch a political struggle, not only against Israel but also within the domestic Palestinian arena, they prefer to do it in Jerusalem or conduct their battles through the offices in East Jerusalem. That is why Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, seeking a prominent platform from which to attack 'Arafat, was provided with a stage in Jerusalem.

Not only the PLO is firmly established in the city. The PFLP's political headquarters, and its magazine offices are also in Jerusalem. The DFLP also has offices in town. The Association of Muslim Sages, which guides Hamas and grants religious legitimacy to its activities is also located in Jerusalem. The main office of QUDS PRESS, the London-based Hamas news agency, is quite near al-Husayni's house.

Each of these dozens of offices could be housed in a single room, but their combined presence is what gives them power. This state of affairs began a long time before Oslo; however, the continuation of the peace process, with the issue of Jerusalem at its center, has increased the level of Palestinian awareness with regard to the city.

For all this, one must also add Jerusalem's holy status in the eyes of all Muslims. Temple Mount serves as the focus for religious feelings which quickly turn to nationalistic sentiments on the ground. At the same time, there is the surrounding infrastructure of religious institutions—the religious courts in the territories, the Waqf, and the Supreme Islamic Council—which also transform the city into something approaching a Palestinian capital.

Defense establishment officials recently prepared a list of all the Palestinian offices and bodies. "If they wish to

honor the agreement, they have to remove all the institutions which are not directly related to the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem," the officials said. "We are not asking them to vacate al-Maqasid Hospital or liquidate any local soccer clubs. However, the bureau of statistics, the economic office, the post office, and the offices for water and development must be located in Jericho."

Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who also has an office in Jerusalem, claims that the Israeli policy is an attempt to alter the city's status quo. "These institutions are not new," he says, "they were there all the time, even before Madrid. One must remember that the agreement stipulates that the central institutions will be in Gaza and Jericho. As for the other institutions, which serve the general Palestinian populace and have nothing to do with the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, these can be in Jerusalem." Abu-Zayyad explains: "I am not talking about political matters but about institutions that serve a community." Abu-Zayyad goes on to firmly assert: "East Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine. I am not saying that this will happen now, but it will become our capital in the framework of a peace agreement."

Houses 'Unsealed' in Territories Without 'Permission'

TA1906113794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 94 p A5

[Report by Yosi Torpstein and Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpts] Dozens of sealed houses in East Jerusalem and the West Bank were unsealed on 17 and 18 June without the permission of the Israeli authorities. The operation was organized by Dr. Mubarak 'Awad, the head of the Palestine Center for Non-Violence. Palestinian political figures, who were invited to take part in the activity, failed to show up. The Israeli security forces did not attempt to stop the operation, nor did they station troops around the reopened structures. The organizers said they would continue their activities until all the sealed houses had been unsealed. [passage omitted]

The organizers claimed that up till now, at least 50 houses, which had been sealed up by the Israeli security forces over the past few years, had been reopened by activists in East Jerusalem, West Bank towns, villages, and refugee camps. The organizers said that approximately 1,300 houses had been sealed before and during the autonomy.

Al-Haq, the Ramallah-based Palestinian human rights organization, estimates that the number of houses sealed or destroyed since 1967 is approximately 2,000.

Islamic Jihad Movement Aide on Release of Cadres

PM2206124394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shaqaqi: Our Cadres' Signing of Pledge Document in Return for Their Release Meant Use of 'Legitimate License'"]

[Text] Damascus—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine" [IJMP] has stressed that the IJMP's cadres released by the occupation authorities did not sign a document promising to support the autonomy agreement, "although there was stipulation of a pledge not to use violence or terrorism." He said that the Palestinian security authorities released IJMP member Hani 'Abid "under the movement's pressure and prompt political action."

Al-Shaqaqi told AL-HAYAH that the Israeli occupation authorities "in fact released a very small number of IJMP members after dialogues and discussions in a mosque between leaders of the movement and after the detainees managed, through steadfastness, to change the text of the document, which now no longer stipulates support for the Declaration of Principles"; but he added that the document did include "a pledge not to resort to violence or terrorism." He said that the IJMP members "during interrogation and in court used to deny resorting to terrorism, on grounds of the interpretation of terminology and the use of violence, or because of interrogation procedures."

Last Thursday the Israeli authorities released 170 Palestinian detainees including some leaders and members of the IJMP and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). Al-Shaqaqi said that "any pledge given was given in a personal and individual capacity and did not affect the movement's general policy or any of its principles which call for the continuation of jihad until the liberation of Palestine. Any personal pledge by any individual not to resort to violence or terrorism on a personal level would not affect the jihad's legitimacy." He added that a "limited number of brothers used what we call legitimate license after forcing the enemy to change a text which had included support for the Declaration of Principles." On why the Palestinian security forces released Hani 'Abid, Dr. al-Shaqaqi explained that 'Abid "had been arrested on the direct request of the Israeli authorities, as admitted by those who interrogated him. They got his name and photograph from Zionist intelligence."

He said that although the detainee was "a journalist and a politician, the interrogation mainly covered the IJMP's military operations in the autonomy areas. They wanted to keep him hostage until the movement signs an undertaking to stop military action against the occupation in those areas, but no one from the movement gave in to these terms. So, under the movement's prompt and active political pressure at home and abroad, they had to

get rid of the problem by releasing 'Abid." The IJMP secretary general—in reply to a question on the agenda of the central command of the alliance of Palestinian forces opposed to the Oslo agreement, which is scheduled to meet today—said that the conferees would discuss "the latest developments after the Palestinian police's entry into Gaza and Jericho, affairs of the alliance which has been moving slowly in the face of fast-breaking changes, and our relations with some friendly states and forces." He spoke of the possibility of "discussing a political framework for the autonomy areas, which is the idea raised separately by more than one faction but opposed by others." He expressed the belief that "we need a high degree of frankness at that meeting, in order to be able to say clearly what we want and what we do not want in the autonomy region. Every faction should give a clear answer so that, if possible, we can come out with a common concept."

Hamas Meeting With Syrian Leaders Reported

PM2206160594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Damascus: Khaddam and al-Shar' Meet With Hamas Delegation"]

[Text] Damascus—Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Damascus, has told AL-HAYAH that a Hamas leadership delegation headed by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq yesterday met with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' separately.

Hamas sources said that the meetings, which were also attended by Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, Political Bureau Member Muhammad Nazzal, and Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, "covered the latest developments relating to the Palestinian question as well as Arab developments." The sources said that both meetings were "warm and serious. We expressed our appreciation of the Syrian position."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa said the two meetings dealt with "the current situation and the role of the vital forces in facing what is going on. We heard their (Khaddam's and al-Shar"s) views and they heard ours. The views were responsive." He added that Hamas considered itself "to be in a confrontation trench as an organization and considered it (Syria) to be in the same trench as a state."

He said that the delegation of the Movement, which is opposed to the Oslo agreement, and al-Shar' "made a political assessment of the current phase, future possibilities, and the position of Hamas inside [the occupied territory]." He added: "We explained the position of the Movement inside accurately." He said that the discussions also broached the meeting of the 10 [Palestinian opposition] factions held yesterday evening. "We acquainted the Syrian officials with the picture and with possible developments. There is a clear Syrian interest in the continuation of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces (opposed to the Oslo agreement) and the reactivation of its role." But the Hamas representative added that Khaddam and al-Shar' pointed out that "the matter is up to the Alliance."

Meanwhile, sources in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah, have told AL-HAYAH that the meeting of the Central Command of the Alliance held yesterday evening "was devoted to discussing the latest developments in the occupied territory in light of the various interactions taking place in Gaza and Jericho, and the role of the opposition forces there." They added that the conferees also discussed "the question of the municipal appointments in the occupied territory and practical moves to foil these appointments."

Hamas Activist Allegedly Murdered by Collaborators

TA2306134294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] A 22-year-old Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist has been murdered in Bayt Lahiyah in the Gaza Strip. The man's associates claim that the murder was committed by collaborators. The victim's body was found riddled with bullets in a Bayt Lahiyah street.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the Palestinian police launched an investigation. The incident has enraged Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip.

Algeria

Sifi Completes Brussels Meetings, Arrives in Paris

'Senses' Support for Economic Reforms

LD2206233894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Prior to leaving Brussels, the head of government, Mokdad Sifi, confirmed that he has received firm assurances that Algeria would get a European loan of 200 million ECUs before the end of the year.

In a news conference before leaving Brussels for Paris, Mokdad Sifi said that he had sensed a firm determination in the European capital, Brussels, to support Algeria in its ongoing economic and political reforms.

Mokdad Sifi had a meeting today with President of the European Commission Jacques Delors, after his meeting with his Belgian counterpart, Jean-Luc Dehaene, and the Belgian foreign minister, Willy Claes, who had assured him that the Algerian issue would be discussed at the European summit in Corfu in a few days. [passage omitted]

Sifi, Mitterand To Discuss Algerian 'Crisis'

LD2206143594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Head of Government Mokdad Sifi, who is in Brussels, met yesterday with his Belgium counterpart Jean-Luc Dehaene. [passage omitted]

The head of goverment is expected in Paris later today. Our colleague Noreddine Bouziane has sent us the following report from Paris before the start of the visit:

[Bouziane] Head of Government Mokdad Sifi is expected in Paris this afternoon. He will be coming from Brussels where he has secured, according to the Belgian prime minister, an economic aid package from Belgium.

Mokdad Sifi will be meeting at the Elysee Palace soon after his arrival with French President Mitterrand. It is expected that their talks will focus on the situation in Algeria and the future of the dialogue between the authorities and the opposition.

Sources close to the Elysee Palace have told us that President Mitterrand will be reiterating to the head of the Algerian Government the need to launch a dialogue with all political forces in the country because France, according to the same sources, believes that keeping the status quo will not bring closer any opportunities to resolve the Algerian crisis. [passage omitted]

Sifi: Mitterrand Supports Government

LD2206204794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi is in Paris today, where he has met French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. He has made a statement to the international media. Rachida Hamadi reports from Brussels [as heard]:

At this very moment [as heard], immediately after his arrival from Belgium to France, the head of government, Mokdad Sifi, is meeting French President Francois Mitterrand.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent addressing Sifi] Prime Minister, have you found a favorable response from the French side regarding Algeria's demands or needs for assistance?

[Sifi] I have not come here to ask for anything. I have come to hold talks with French and European officials within the framework of cooperation in all spheres—political and economic spheres. My meeting with President Mitterrand allows me to say that he supports the Algerian Government's and head of state's endeavors. [end recording]

After his meeting with President Mitterrand, the prime minister went to French government headquarters, where he had a meeting with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. The meeting lasted about an hour.

Sifi: 'Complete Satisfaction' With Talks

LD2306105494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi expressed his complete satisfaction with the talks which he held yesterday evening in Paris with his French counterpart Edouard Balladur. Sifi said that France's view of Algeria takes into account the closeness of existing Algerian-French and Algerian-European cooperation and the situation in the Euro-Maghreban region. He explained that cooperation, whether between Algeria and France or Algeria and Europe, serves the interest of both sides.

In the economic field, Mokdad Sifi indicated that the results of his visits to France could be embodied in comprehensive cooperation. In this regard, he said that the renewal of French loans to Algeria, which amount to about six billion francs will serve the interest of Algeria just as it will serve the interest of French investors.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who was received immediately after his arrival in France by President Francois Mitterrand, announced that the latter had stressed continuing French and European support [for Algeria] in the political and economic fields.

Regarding his talks in Brussels, Mokdad Sifi told the press before leaving Brussels for Paris that he has sensed

the desire among the European partners to bolster cooperation with Algeria and provide their contribution so that Algeria can get out of the crisis as soon as possible.

What can be deduced from this first foreign visit of Mokdad Sifi in his capacity as prime minister is that Europe has confirmed its readiness to release the loan of 200 million ECUs. In principle this will take place next September or before the end of December.

The satisfactory results also include the need to set up a mechanism for swift negotiations with the aim of concluding a new partnership agreement to take the place of the 1976 agreement. This will be an agreement aimed at establishing a free trade area similar to what is currently under negotiation with Morocco and Tunisia.

Yemeni Envoy Seeks Help for Immediate Cease-Fire

LD2206133894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] State President Liamine Zeroual received today at his office Salim Salih Muhammad, special envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The meeting was attended by Mihoub Mihoubi, adviser in charge of diplomatic affairs and the president's official spokesman. Upon leaving the state president's office the Yemeni envoy made the following statement:

[Begin Salim Salih Muhammad recording] We explained to his excellency the brother president the latest developments in the situation in Yemen and the current war, which was started by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 27 April, when he declared war on the southern regions. Eight weeks have passed but fierce fighting is still going on causing huge human and material losses. [passage omitted]

We are calling on the Arab brothers, and Algeria in particular given its place in our hearts as well as its experience, to play a role and help us to secure an immediate cease-fire so as to stop the bloodshed and save those Yemenis who are still alive and the installations which are still standing. We are also urging them to recognize the situation before unification which has failed in its four years to achieve the amalgamation of two systems, two armies, two state institutions, two currencies, etc. We want a return to the situation before 22 May 1990. This is our stand. And we are now defending our right and the right of our children to life and to the protection of our property which is being destroyed day in and day out. [passage omitted]

We are, therefore, urging all our brothers in the Arab Maghreb or in the Arab Mashriq to stop this war through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and resolve this problem wisely through dialogue and dialogue alone. [end recording]

Protocol Signed With Italy on Natural Gas

LD2206205394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Sonatrach and Italian Snam have signed a protocol on supplying the Italian company with two-billion cubic meters of Algerian natural gas.

Zeroual Receives TNC Officials, Views Tasks

LD2206140394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] State President Liamine Zeroual received at his office at the presidency this morning Abdelkader Bensalah, chairman of the Transitional National Council [TNC], and his six deputies. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister adviser to the state president, and Youcef Khatib, adviser to the state president.

During a brief address at the meeting, the state president dwelt upon the importance of the TNC as an institution where all affiliations and viewpoints can meet and as a platform for democratic debate. He pointed out the great tasks facing the TNC which should ensure that the principles of the National Concord [document] are respected.

The head of state added that the members of the TNC bureau should try and enhance the government's agenda. It should also, given the fact that it is representative of all society's strata, supervise, guarantee, and follow up the concerns of all classes of the society. We will be encouraging you to do so, the head of state affirmed.

Concerning the absence of some parties from the TNC, the head of state pointed out that this should not mean that they are excluded from the management of the country's affairs. The latter is facing a very difficult period in its history and therefore it needs all its sincere sons to rebuild Algeria upon sound bases which will meet the country's higher interest.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Islamist Threat

BR2206143694 Brussels LE SOIR in French 22 Jun 94 p 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi by Agnes Gorissen and Philippe Regnier; place and date not given: "On Political and Economic Challenges Facing Algerian Government"]

[Text] [LE SOIR] In February, Algeria entered the transitional period intended to permit, in three years time, a return to the electoral process. But this transition is at present handicapped by two factors: One is the refusal of several parties (the National Liberation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, the Rally for Culture and Democracy) to participate in the transitional institutions, the other is the Islamist phenomenon.

[Sifi] The dialogue already brings together political parties, including moderate islamist parties, key figures, and

representatives of social, trade union or cultural groups which are clearly representative. We will begin with all these parties and keep the door open; the seats reserved for the other parties (22 seats out of the 200 in the National Transitional Council—editor's note) remain available, they can join us at any stage. The process of dialogue, with those who respect the Constitution and laws and who reject terrorism, is not easy, and it takes time.

[LE SOIR] Time, while the violence by armed Islamic groups continues, particularly against civilians: doctors, journalists, professors. Why these targets and not just government representatives?

[Sifi] You have to try and read these terrorist acts. They are seeking to upset the country's social and economic life, and they no doubt believed that through these acts they could act upon the population, bring them to the brink, and cause them to create even greater problems. It has not achieved this result, quite the contrary.

[LE SOIR] Is there any possibility of solving the present crisis without entering into dialogue with the Islamic fringe?

[Sifi] Certainly. What counts most in Algeria is the population. If it finds a response to its aspirations, housing, employment, I fail to see why this will not work.

[LE SOIR] If the Islamists agreed to dialogue, what concessions are the authorities prepared to make?

[Sifi] The authorities have no concessions to make. Anyone who talks of power-sharing is going against democracy. It is up to the population to decide who it is going to entrust with power. In any event our government is a transitional one, it is not intended to stay in place.

[LE SOIR] But to move away from a security policy and toward a more social policy, you must succeed in "managing" the problem of the "hard-line" Islamists and the armed groups.

[Sifi] I do not know where these people are. There are armed gangs who recruit young people with nothing else to do, but the rest of the population rejects such a situation. We must now stop this violence, the government must reinforce the antiterrorist measures. And all democratic states must ensure that their country does not become a rear or transit base for terrorists.

[LE SOIR] In this respect, what are your relations with Germany and the United States, which have allowed in Rabah Kebir and Anwar Haddam respectively?

[Sifi] A country has sovereign rights at home, but there are always limits that it must respect. Steps are taken to ask our partners to be vigilant, because things can happen without their knowledge. And this applies even more so when things are known.

[LE SOIR] The WASHINGTON POST recently reported on direct contacts between the CIA and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], which apparently gave assurances to the United States in return for a certain support.

[Sifi] I have not received any precise information on the official positions except for that from the U.S. President who denounced terrorism. But it seems that Bill Clinton expressed the desire to see a broader government base in Algeria, which is ultimately what everyone wants. It is an approval of the Algerian approach. There had been very low level contacts with the people from the FIS. For information purposes perhaps.

[LE SOIR] In certain circles, in Algeria and abroad, the authorities are also given some "bad marks," for human rights in particular: excessive repression, death squads.

[Sifi] That is a tactic to destabilize the country. The security services have received firm instructions not to fall into the trap of repression, even at the risk of delaying their operations or of losing men. And every measure has been taken to severely punish any excesses.

[LE SOIR] Caught in a cycle of terrorism-repression, Algeria sometimes gives the impression of economic inertia. What are your priorities?

[Sifi] Our priorities lie in four areas. First of all, accommodation: We must make it possible to build as much housing as possible, in the framework of the development of a market economy. Because to date, housing programs along with all our other activities, have been in the hands of a corrupt administration. You have to wait from eight to 10 years for a home! We need 1.2 million houses if each one is occupied by seven people, which is much higher than the standards approved by the World Health Organization.

[LE SOIR] And other priorities?

[Sifi] The development of small- and medium-sized companies and agriculture, an area in which we are lagging far behind. We depend on the outside world: We import foodstuffs worth $2 billion every year despite our considerable resources. Then there are hydrocarbons, in which we are currently investing. They will allow us to double our gas exports by 1998 or 1999 and to maintain our present level of oil production.

[LE SOIR] Will that undermine Islamism?

[Sifi] Yes. All these investments meet the needs of the population, with improved management of the health, education, and water distribution sectors. Improvements in these areas will allow us to relieve the burden so far borne by the population. If it did not suffer at the hands of terrorism, it would be from crime, delinquency, or drugs. Terrorism has the same roots as the other evils.

[LE SOIR] You are making your first visit to Brussels and Paris since your election. What are you going to discuss with the European authorities?

[Sifi] We are going to see how we can speed up the adaptation of the accord which has bound us to the European Union since 1976. We hope the Union will delegate experts to start discussions within "reasonable" deadlines. This adaptation must take into account political and economic change in Algeria.

[LE SOIR] And on the subject of the debt?

[Sifi] After the accord concluded at the Club de Paris to reschedule the debt, we have until 31 December to conclude bilateral agreements with Belgium and 16 other countries.

Security Forces Report 23 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2206210594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The security forces today announced that they had killed 23 terrorists on 20 June at a place called Tagarmout, situated between Tazoult and Ain Touta in the province of Batna. The statement said that this operation was carried out by the security forces following information supplied by one of the members who had surrendered. During the operation, 18 weapons were recovered. In addition, the security forces reported that they had killed three other terrorists on the same day, during an operation at a place called Haouche el Ghir in the province of Oran.

The security forces also announced that they had arrested 13 people charged with carrying out several assassinations in the provinces of Algiers and Boumerdes, including the killers of two lawyers—Grine Laid and Belghoul Saad—at Haouche el Makhfi in Reghaia.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Slovak Foreign Minister

NC2206131194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Ambassador Mushirah Khattab, Egypt's ambassador to Slovakia; Ambassador Jan Borieh [name as transliterated], Slovakia's ambassador in Cairo; and Mr. Ivan Borkosh, director of the Middle East desk at the Slovak Foreign Ministry [name and title as received].

Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan stated after the meeting that he is very happy that President Mubarak received him today at the beginning of his visit to Egypt. He said he held fruitful discussions with the president regarding the possibilities and means of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Slovakia.

He added that we will exploit the good political intentions of both sides to strengthen and bolster this cooperation.

He said it was a pleasure to convey to President Mubarak the invitation from the Slovak president to officially visit our country. The president has accepted the invitation and the date will be fixed at the appropriate time.

The Slovak foreign minister concluded his statement by expressing his hopes that the discussions he held with President Mubarak today would yield some positive results in future relations between Egypt and Slovakia. He noted that his discussions with the president today on this topic were very encouraging.

The Slovak foreign minister arrived in Cairo yesterday evening on a visit to last several days.

Musa Signs Joint Agreements

NC2206150694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Egypt and Slovakia held official talks at the Foreign Ministry today. The Egyptian delegation was led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Slovak delegation by Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan. The two delegations discussed international issues of common interest, developments in eastern Europe, and bilateral relations.

On behalf of their governments, the two ministers signed an agreement on consultations and cooperation between the two foreign ministries. They signed another agreement abolishing entry visas for persons carrying diplomatic and special passports.

In a statement after the talks, the Slovak foreign minister said he had had the honor to meet with President Husni Mubarak today and to hand him a message from Slovakia's president. He also extended to him an official invitation from the Slovak president to visit Slovakia.

He said that the talks dealt with political issues, adding that his country supports efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue. Slovakia also hopes that a peaceful solution will be found to the Bosnian problem. He added that the signing of the two agreements will contribute to strengthening relations between the two countries. Agreement has also been reached to increase and strengthen economic and trade cooperation between Egypt and Slovakia, he said.

U.S. Ambassador Presents Credentials to Musa

NC2206153194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Edward Walker, new U.S. ambassador to Egypt, who presented a copy of his credentials to the foreign minister.

The ambassador stated that Egypt and the United States are linked by close relations and therefore his task will be easy.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East, the ambassador said that no date has been set for this visit.

Russian Diplomat Caught Photographing Bridges

NC2206122894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Sami Sarhan from al-Qalyubiyah]

[Text] The security apparatus in al-Qalyubiyah has arrested the first secretary at the Russian Embassy in Cairo, the president of the Russian Language Institute, and an Egyptian woman and her son when they were caught photographing bridges on the Nile River in the city of Banha.

Al-Qalyubiyah Security Chief Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar received a report from Hamdi Mahmud Hasanayn, chief of the security department on the Banha City Council, saying that he spotted the passengers of a car bearing diplomatic plates No. 12401 as they photographed bridges. Major Ahmad al-Dahabi and Captain 'Adil Lutfi went to the site of the incident, where they arrested Kuder Vicev Yuriy, first secretary at the Russian Embassy; Dr. Asingysev, director of the Russian Language Institute [names and titles as published]; Widad Ahmad Wahdan, the widow of a former counselor; and the latter's son Ayman, a student at al-Alsun Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotels. They were all referred to prosecutors for interrogation.

Rift Between 'Extremists' Reported

NC2206181394 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 5

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] Divisions that almost led to an armed clash broke out within the extremist groups' ranks in al-Minya last week. The reason was the declaration by over 40 extremists to the security authorities that they have repented and renounced extremist thought. Thus the number of repenters in al-Minya has exceeded 70, most of whom represent the basic figures of the extremist groups in al-Minya's cities, especially in (al-'Adwah) District, where the majority of extremist leaders declared their repentance. This is regarded as the first rift of its kind among the extremists in al-Minya.

Reactions by leaders of the extremist groups over the last week have varied. A number of extremists announced in their mosques in al-Minya Governorate their intention to take revenge against the repenters, whom they described as "hypocrites and cowards," and demanded that they be banned from entering the mosques they control. The extremist leaders urged a firm stand against the repenters. Other extremists asked for there to be no battle with the repenters or clashes with them because this would lead to further intervention by the security agencies.

For their part, the repenters asked the governorate's officials and security agencies to back them and to protect them against the terrorists' threats.

An informed source stated that the repenters continue to flock to the security authorities as a result of the firm, decisive stand on extremism and terrorism and because of the people's awareness in al-Minya Governorate, which differs from other governorates in Upper Egypt. He said last week saw the arrest of 30 extremists and outlaws in the largest ever campaign of arrests in al-Minya Governorate, designed to avert more incidents.

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the Asyut security agencies' Operation "Spencer" against the northern area—which includes the cities of al-Badari, Sidfa, and Abu Tij—managed to exterminate the terrorist elements in that area in cooperation with the Suhaj security agencies. In the last few days the authorities have been able to arrest 80 extremists and to foil a plot to carry out terrorist attacks in the area.

Lawyer Begins Hunger Strike Over Madani Case

NC2206140394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 2

[Report by Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad, representative of the Cairo Lawyers Association and deputy chairman of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO], has begun a hunger strike at the association's headquarters in Cairo. He said he would continue the hunger strike until Prosecutor General Raja' al-'Arabi publicizes the findings of investigations into the death of Lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and releases the detained lawyers.

The Lawyers Association Council held a meeting in its general headquarters yesterday to discuss developments in the case. 'Abd- al-'Aziz Muhammad, a 58-year-old diabetic, announced the beginning of his strike and sit-in and said that he would give a press conference at the headquarters tomorrow, Monday [20 June]. The meeting was attended by heads of the association's sub-branches.

Sayyid Khalaf, secretary general of the Cairo branch of the association, is expected to join the hunger strike on Monday. The association's council members will follow suit.

Yesterday EHRO appealed to all human rights organizations to intervene with the Egyptian authorities to release two of its lawyers. The appeal affirmed that the two lawyers were arrested in court as they were performing their duty of being present at the interrogation of lawyers arrested during riots outside the association. The two lawyers—Jamal 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Sayyid Fathi—work at the EHRO's Field Unit.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Condemns U.S., U.K., France

LD2306092594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Speech by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "before the masses of the western Tripoli suburbs of Qirgarish, Hay al-Andalus, and Ghawt al-Sha'al" in Tripoli on 22 June—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, this evening another strong voice is being raised from an important corner of the immortal town of Tripoli, the Tripoli of Arabs. This voice is being raised today from Qirgarish, Hay al-Andalus, and Ghawt al-Sha'al. This voice is being raised to stress to the enemies that the Libyan people have decided to accept the challenge of confrontation and defiance, and they have decided to confront defiance with their iron and formidable determination which cannot be defeated or swayed.

Brothers, let your voice rise from the western corner of Tripoli, from Qirgarish, Hay al-Andalus, and Ghawt al-Sha'aal. Let the enemies hear this strong voice which cannot be terrorized by threats and unjust policies. This voice, brothers, will terrorize and shake them; the voice of the masses and the voice of the free citizen—the ordinary citizen—the voice of the street and the voice of quarters. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, they use dirty weapons against us so as to weaken our determination and we find ourselves forced to give in to their wishes. They use economic and psychological weapons and threaten us to step up the sanctions. They threaten us with an oil embargo. This is an insult to the Libyan people when they think that oil is more valuable than the dignity of the Libyan people. They are mistaken and they insult the Libyan people when they think that oil is dearer than the dignity, glory, and our fathers and ancestors' blood which was shed before the time of oil in defense of the freedom of this land. They insult you, brothers, they think that eating, to you, is more important than the homeland. They want to tell you that your are guided by you stomach not by you brains. They want to imply that you have no dignity when they threaten to embargo the Libyan oil.

First of all those barbarians use the dirtiest and the most decadent weapons, they fight people in their quest to earn a living. Why do they not say they would impose an embargo on Libyan dates, onions, or oranges.

They say we will impose an embargo on Libyan oil if Libya does not surrender, because they know that the main source of wealth and the main resource of the Libyan people is oil. Hence they embarked upon threatening the Libyan people's livelihood. This is not the weapon of real men, nor is it the weapon of the brave. It is not a human weapon at all. This is the weapon of cowards, the weapon of barbarians (?of the jungle), the enemies of human rights and the enemies of peoples.

The United States, Britain, and France prove that they are the most decadent states and the most barbaric and savage states when they fight the Iraqi people, the Libyan people, and the Cuban people. They fight each country by its source of wealth. They fight Cuba by sugar, its main resource. They fight Iraq by deprivation of its oil. They fight Libya by threatening that they will impose an embargo on its oil. These threats can only come from very decadent and barbarous nations. What is this despicable talk which is a disgrace to mankind? What is this talk of threatening peoples' resources and wealth?

When they impose an arms ban on Libya, this is understandable. When they impose a ban on transports, this can also be understandable. Whether this applies to Libya or any other country, if a state needs to be punished, political relations with it are severed. This is also understandable and acceptable. However, when they threaten to boycott the source of wealth of any people, they are sinking very low in decadence and they show that they are barbarians and snakes. After that they should no longer have the right to talk about humanity, freedom, peoples, and human rights. By threatening the peoples' wealth and the people's main resource, they lose that right. When they decide to starve peoples, they are proving that they are more barbaric than Genghiz Khan and Hulagu, more Nazi than Hitler, and more fascist than Mussolini.

The new Hitler is the United States, Britain, and France. The new Mussolini is the United States, Britain, and France. The new Hulagu is the United States, Britain, and France. The new Genghis Khan is the United States, Britain, and France. [passage omitted]

Brothers, how do Arab governments continue to adhere to the three Western countries' resolution which was fabricated on behalf of the Security Council; how do they adhere to refusing Libyan planes even during Hajj, although new evidence has come to light before the world regarding the so-called Lockerbie case which categorically proves that at least the perpetrator was not Libya?

This new evidence has come as a slap in the face for the United States, Britain, and France, and the so-called false Security Council. How can they impose sanctions on the Libyan people when it has become evident that a number of sides could have perpetrated the crime? A number of sides are now in the dock. A number of sides are now thought to have blown up Lockerbie [as heard]. How can sanctions against the Libyan people continue in an obscure and ambiguous case in which the accused have become numerous? How can they pick on one of the accused and impose sanctions on him?

Shame on Arab governments. Shame on the rulers of the Arab nation. Shame on you for carrying out whatever Washington tells you without question and for carrying out what Tel Aviv tells you without question.

It is a disgrace that the issue of Arab existence and Arab Palestine has become an issue of the demarcation of

borders between Jordan and the enemy. Are they not ashamed of the thousands of victims—children and women, not to mention men—of letting the issue of Jerusalem, the issue of Palestine, and the issue of threatened Arab existence become the issue of the demarcation of borders between Jordan and the so-called Israel.

This unconditional and unjustifiable surrender is shameful and disgraceful. This nation has sacrificed convoys of martyrs for Palestine. The sacrifice was not made for the border between Jordan and the so-called Israel. [passage omitted]

We are telling the colonial countries that the veto has been transferred from the Security Council and the superpowers to the street, the masses, the Libyan people, the Somali people, and the Lebanese people.

We are telling them: Do not mock the street, O Arab rulers. Do not mock the wretched Arab citizen. Do not pile humiliation after humiliation on this citizen. Do not gamble with the future of this citizen. This wretched citizen in the Arab Maghreb, the Arab Mashreq [Middle East], the Nile valley and the Arabian peninsula will take revenge. [passage omitted]

We tell them: You should fear the citizen more than the United States. You should fear the poor Arab citizen who is humiliated today. You should fear him more than you fear France, Britain, the United States, and Tel Aviv. O You, the servile and submissive Arab leaders, who trade the future of this citizen, this citizen will rebel and he must rebel. This citizen is a threat to you. America will not save you from this citizen. This citizen is closer to you than your jugular vein. This citizen is closer to you than rescue from America and Tel Aviv. This citizen is lying in wait for you, you the servile leaders.

Glory is to the street; glory is to the ordinary citizen; glory is to these generations which want to live free under the sun, away from the United States', Britain's, France's, and Tel Aviv's threats. It is this free citizen who will determine what he wants. It is he, the free citizen, who should have the right of veto. Go on, you colonialists, allying yourselves with the most despicable agents and cowards in the Arab region. Go on challenging the Arab citizen because this will turn the Arab citizen into a bomb. It is this citizen who can do what your fleets and nuclear bombs cannot do. We welcome this policy which fosters hatred in our children and grandchildren against you the colonialists. Go on you the colonialists, go on with your devious and mistaken policies from which you will reap regret. You will regret this, you colonialists.

We are happy when you despise the Arab citizen and when you fill this Arab citizen with hatred and rancor against you. Let there be more challenge from America to the Arab citizen, the Iraqi citizen, the Libyan citizen and the Somali citizen. Let there be more humiliation to the Palestinian Arab citizen. Let there be more destruction of Lebanon because all this will generate hatred and bombs and will generate fear, brothers. This will generate terrorism, the real terrorism which they fear, when the Arab citizen terrorizes them. This is the citizen whose house is being destroyed in Lebanon and about whom nobody talks. This citizen will take his revenge, as will the citizen who is being jailed in Palestine and who is tortured in Palestine and whose mother and sister are tortured in front of him. This is the citizen who will turn into a bomb which will destroy what is known as Israel. Israel will (?suffer at the hands of) this citizen and what is known as Israel will be finished; and America's fleets will not save it from the ordinary citizen, the explosive citizen wearing an explosive belt or carrying a bomb.

Continue, you leaders, on the path of surrender and submissiveness to the will of the enemy because this will shorten your life and will bring your end nearer at the hands of the citizen who rejects surrender, submissiveness, and servility. The peoples want to live free, brothers. The citizen wants to be master of his own destiny and wants to live free. He does not accept always living under the leaders' whip and under the threats of the enemies, Tel Aviv and Washington. God did not create us to live, generation after generation, under America's and Tel Aviv's terrorism.

We accept death and challenge. We have decided to confront the challenge with challenge. We have decided to accept the challenge in the spheres of oil, arms, the economy, or in anything else.

We do not sell the martyrs' blood for oil. We do not sell the immortal past for oil. [passage omitted]

When the confrontation became a confrontation between the citizen and the enemies, between the peoples and the colonialist [word indistinct], the confrontation became one between the Arab citizen and his rulers, between the citizen and the rulers. It is here that the master citizen emerged, the free citizen emerged in the free street on the free Libyan territory. He emerged today in the western corner of the city of Tripoli, in Qirgarish and Hay al- Andalus to make his voice heard by the subservient rulers. [passage omitted]

Article Calls Western Governments 'Racist'

LD2206130194 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 22 Jun (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, published here today, stressed that many of the hidden aspects of the so-called Lockerbie issue have begun to emerge, revealing a number of those painful facts with which the peoples of the world of delusion in capitalist society live, deceived by dozens of false capitalist slogans.

In a lengthy article today AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR said that the so-called Lockerbie incident was from the outset a dirty plan of the intelligence agencies which was set up with the specific aim of preoccupying Western public

opinion with marginal issues and distracting it from the harsh and bitter crises which they experience in their daily life. [passage omitted]

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR concluded at the end of its commentary that Lockerbie revealed that Western governments do not respect the public opinion of our society and do not value those who represent bodies, organizations, and humanitarian and legal organs, and that Western governments trade with their peoples and use them as a means of achieving their own aims. The Western governments proved that they are backward, malicious, and racist toward the peoples of the world and its small states and that they do not rely on moral values in dealing with international issues and crises.

Official Meets Canadian, Spanish, Greek Envoys

LD2206211294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The brother Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today met Michael Roy, Canada's non-resident ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, as well as the envoys from Spain and Greece.

Aspects of bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and these countries and the means to consolidate them were discussed during these meetings.

Morocco

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Consultations

LD2206215794 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud arrived in Morocco this evening carrying a letter from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, to his brother King Hassan II. The Saudi minister made the following statement on arrival at King Mohamed V International Airport:

[Al-Faysal] In fact I am carrying a message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to His Majesty King Hassan II. As the practice has always been between the two leaders, consultation on all issues related to Arab issues becomes a duty, particularly when important issues are raised in the Arab arena. I will, God willing, be honored by meeting His Majesty the King to convey this message to him. I hope that the efforts of our two leaders in both countries play an influential role in keeping the peace and the security of our Arab nation and our two brotherly peoples.

King Hassan Receives South Yemeni Delegation

LD2206125994 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday [21 June] afternoon received at the Royal Palace of Skhirat, 20 km south of here, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The delegation is composed of Salim Muhammad Salih, member of the presidency council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Muhsin Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid, vice president of the ministerial council, planning minister and secretary general of the League of the Sons of Yemen and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dali, president of the political department of external relations of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

The audience was attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, Prince Moulay Rachid, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui.

King Urges Parliament To Adopt Education Charter

LD1706130794 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 17 (MAP)—King Hassan II asked the Moroccan parliament to elaborate 'a national charter' on education defining the basic criteria of the Moroccan educational system to enable the Moroccan people be up to the present and future challenges.

In a letter to the parliament Thursday [16 June] that was read by adviser to the sovereign Ahmed Bensouda, King Hassan II underlined the key role played by education in economic, social and cultural development. He noted that despite the progress made, further efforts must be exerted to take up the challenges thrown at the sector. 'Various shortcomings at all stages and at all levels are still characterizing our educational system', the sovereign said adding these shortcomings are the major reason behind the unemployment of scores of university degree holders. This situation, he explained, is due to the unbalance between the supply and demand in various socio-economic sectors on the one hand and to a deficient orientation and insufficient information of students on the other.

'Our educational system must be conceived in the frame of a comprehensive, coherent and future-oriented policy that must be very flexible and receptive to would-be adjustments', the sovereign pointed out calling for elaborating a policy able to meet both the current and future needs related to the economic, social and cultural changes Morocco is going through.

The education problem is complicated and must be addressed by all. It is a collective responsibility committing the state, parents, teachers and economic operators, King Hassan II said urging the parliament to devote a large part of the current parliamentary term to debates

on the education problem and to try to draw the bases of a national policy in this vital field. 'A general consultation must be engaged, without any exclusive nor exclusion, and far from any demagogic or partisan consideration', King Hassan II stated.

The sovereign said further he is confident that the mps will give evidence of patriotism, imagination, audacity and realism in elaborating this policy which must, the sovereign underlined, 'preserve our identity and authenticity, define... the frame to train the Moroccan so that he be useful and efficient, at home and abroad, for himself and for the whole society'.

Our education must assert and consolidate the Moroccan personality and must be inspired from and based on the precepts of Islam, a religion of overture and tolerance, King Hassan II said adding 'in this troubled period, it is imperative to educate and to train the Moroccan on the basis of the respect of his faith and to instil in him the spirit of Islam which accepts the other and rejects any domination will'.

Our education must also be targeted to take up the challenge of the 21st century, i.e. mastering the growingly complicated technological and industrial evolutions as it must enable the Moroccan to actively and efficiently participate in the economic and cultural development of the society. It is high time we drew lessons from our various policies to adjust our needs and ambitions to the available means...we must take into account the increasing budget burdens that might in the short run force the public finance to make choices detrimental to economic development and social dignity, the sovereign said before concluding 'the Moroccan people is expecting you to present a frame of a national dimension, putting an end to the era of hesitation and fulfilling its legitimate ambitions'.

Filali Reviews Program at Cabinet Meeting

LD2206131394 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 22 (MAP)—The Moroccan cabinet Tuesday [21 June] held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali to review the measures that must be made to implement the program expounded in the governmental declaration presented earlier this month to the parliament.

Filali said on the occasion that the government must grant priority to the sectors of justice, administration, employment, privatization, education and promotion of the rural world. After it thoroughly examined the various axes presented, the cabinet decided to take a number of administrative and juridical measures to implement the program.

During the meeting, Minister of Justice Mohamed Drissi Alami M'chichi made a presentation on the bills submitted to the specialized parliamentary committee for examination. The bills are meant to modify a number of laws on the organization and prerogatives of communal jurisdictions, on the creation of a special court to deal with cases of treason, corruption, abuse of power, and embezzlements committed by civil servants and on the penal procedure code.

Minister of Finance Mohamed Sagou on his part expounded the two bills he submitted to the specialized parliamentary committee for scrutiny. The first bill is related to the use of funds earmarked for the promotion of youth employment while the second amends the law on the granting of loans to people wishing to carry out some projects.

Minister Azimane on Issue of Missing People

LD1706132394 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, Jun. 17 (MAP)—The issue of the missing people is a sensitive question that is exploited by foreign parties for ill-intending ends, Moroccan Human Rights Minister Omar Azimane said. Speaking at a question time at the parliament, the minister said his department is trying to settle the question of the missing with objectivity.

Azimane stressed the need for all the parties concerned to exert more efforts to take the necessary measures to preserve the dignity of the Moroccan citizen. The first findings on the question of the missing people show that there are three categories of missing. The first include 97 allegedly missing. These persons cannot be considered missing, he said. The second include persons released after detention, while the third category include six persons upon whom investigation are being conducted according to complaints of by their relatives and on the information published by national dailies.

Sudan

Abu-Salih on Ummah Party, Military Advances

EA2206191594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih reviewed the problems facing the African continent at the ministry's regular forum yesterday, stressing the necessity of establishing a peace fund to strengthen the mechanism for settling African problems. [passage omitted]

On the situation in the south of the country, the foreign minister confirmed that the government adheres to the principle of negotiation to achieve the peace that it seeks, despite the advances made by the Armed Forces in the fighting arenas.

Dr. Abu-Salih confirmed that the sabotage conspiracy case of the dissolved Ummah Party, which included criminal operations directed at the security and stability

of the country, is now before the judiciary, where an investigation is being carried out on the role of the intelligence elements of the foreign state concerned.

Al-Mahdi Reaffirms Commitment to 'Civil Jihad'

PM2306080094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Al-Mahdi Stresses His Commitment to 'Civil Jihad'"]

[Excerpts] London—The Sudanese opposition Ummah Party yesterday condemned the arrest by security authorities of its leader, former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The party described the accusations leveled at him—namely that he led a scheme to carry out bombings and assassinations—as "a fabricated theatrical ploy within the framework of the continued harassment of him."

The Ummah Party yesterday distributed a statement which it said was prepared by al-Mahdi before his arrest, concerning the arrest by security authorities of two Ummah Party leaders, namely Professor Hammad Baqadi and 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah.

In his statement al-Mahdi said that the basic principle on the basis of which he operates is "civil jihad, and working to achieve democracy in Sudan without bloodshed or foreign intervention." [passage omitted]

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in the statement distributed by the Ummah Party yesterday that "security services have on several occasions tried to fabricate accusations against us: They accused us once of working with Libya to achieve certain aims through violence. That was in 1989. Then they leveled accusations at us on more than three occasions: They twice accused us of planning coup attempts, and once they dragged our name into the bombings case heard recently. They also fabricated numerous accusations against us with regard to cases involving violence and bloodshed. These accusations are nothing but fabrications."

Al-Mahdi added: "This is why I say once again that the present accusations leveled at some well-known men from our group are nothing but an attempt to distort our reputation and continue the usual fabrications in a bid to create sensational situations and divert attention from the political and economic failures."

Concluding, he said: "Once again I say that we are pursuing one line, that is civil jihad, to achieve the homeland's aims. And even if we—for one reason or another—decide to pursue another line, it would not be in such a naive manner or in the recklessness clear in the background of the accusations." [passage omitted]

Radio Views Disbanded Ummah Party Conspiracy

EA2206205094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] While reports say that members of the disbanded Ummah party abroad broke off from the so-called Patriotic Alliance because of serious differences with the scattered remnants of the opposition, security organs inside the country exposed the threads of a conspiracy which was being hatched out by some members of this disbanded party under the leadership of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Security sources say they had been monitoring this group for some time and made arrests after fixing the zero hour. Following confessions by members of the group, the security sources said the group had planned to assassinate well-known personalities and to blow up some vital installations. [passage omitted].

But there are other sides to this issue, namely the intelligence of foreign states, which wish to see the day when Sudan drowns in a sea of blood. Another aspect is the scattered remnants of the opposition abroad which are linked to these foreign intelligence organs and which are competing to carry out activities inside the country, whatever these may be, in order to justify obtaining funds from the financing quarters.

According to the confessions of those caught, that is Brigadier Retired 'Abd-al-Rahman Farah, former security adviser, Hamad 'Umar Baqadi, member of the dissolved Ummah Party's Political Bureau and one called Seyf al-Din Sa'id, in charge of security and information in the dissolved party, their contacts with foreign quarters in Khartoum have not ended. Whether they are instigating these quarters to finance sabotage operations or whether those quarters are the instigators is immaterial. Ultimately the result is the same, namely to drown the country in a sea of blood and to sabotage vital installations. In any case, the only ones to benefit are those foreign quarters. [passage omitted]

Southern Rebels Promised Israeli 'Assistance'

NC2206202694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by Mahmud Bakri: "Israelis and Sudanese Rebels Meet Secretly on Borders with Ethiopia"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that a secret meeting was held recently at a location close to the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders between an Israeli delegation and a delegation of southern Sudanese rebels.

Available information indicates that the Israeli delegation, led by their foreign ministry's director general, discussed with the rebels a general plan of action in European countries and the United States designed to initiate exchanges between the rebels and members of the Sudanese opposition abroad focusing on ways of undermining the ruling regime in Sudan. You will recall

that the rebels recently suffered a succession of defeats at the hands of the Sudanese Army.

During the meeting, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's secretary general expressed Israel's willingness to give political and military assistance to the rebels. The two parties made arrangements for a delegation of the southern Sudanese rebels to visit Israel.

The Israeli move comes against a backdrop of Egyptian-Sudanese differences. According to available information, Israel is enticing the southerners to take advantage of these differences by declaring the secession of the southern Sudan. Israel has promised to give major assistance to the rebels in their struggle against the Sudanese Army.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Addresses Party Conference

LD2206214294

[Editorial report] Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 22 June broadcasts a recorded 25-minute speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at a Constitutional Democratic Rally party conference attended by nearly 4,000 delegates of party grassroots organizations, at the Palace of Exhibitions in Tunis on the morning of 22 June.

President Ben Ali expresses support for the process of renewing the rally's structural organizations. He stresses the significance of keeping to the dates of the party elections. He reviews the period between 1990 and 1994 and emphasizes that the party is embarking on a process of renewal with the aim of firmly establishing democratic practices and extending reforms within itself and in the country.

He stresses the significance of youth and says: "A party without youth has no future." He also highlights the role of women and expresses confidence that women will compete on an equal footing with men for all party posts. He reiterates his conviction in the democratic course and his determination to enshrine it in the party tradition and in the country as a whole. He underlines the role of party activists in enlisting large numbers of active and willing people within society through the application of party principles based on democratic dialogue and free competition at various levels and for various activities.

He stresses that the coming period will be fraught with difficulties for the party and the country; however, he expresses his confidence that he will face these challenges aided by the trust of the people and the work of party activists to achieve the high objectives set for Tunisia in every field.

Ben Yahya, Chinese Official Hold Cooperation Talks

LD2206215194 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya held talks at the ministry this afternoon with Mr. Luo Gan, state councillor in the People's Republic of China, who is on a three-day working visit to Tunisia. After the meeting, Ben Yahya and Luo Gan cochaired a working session that included delegations from the two countries.

The Chinese official later said that the two sides had agreed on the need to expand cooperation between the two countries, with a view toward bolstering bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields, and also in various other fields.

Foreign Ministry Cited on Rwandan Crisis

LD2106140594 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] A source at the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, answering a question about the latest developments of the situation in Rwanda and especially the intention of some non-African countries to send forces to that country, said that Tunisia, which chairs the Organization of African Unity, OAU, affirms that the Rwandan issue should be tackled according to Security Council resolution 918 dated 17 March 1994 and within the framework of the 30th OAU summit decision on the need to base every move on the following principles:

—coordinating with the OAU regarding the sending of any forces to Rwanda in support of the central organ of conflict prevention, management, and settlement mechanism.

—only African forces and no other should be sent to Rwanda as stated by the above mentioned Security Council resolution.

—securing the consent of the conflicting parties before taking the initiative of sending troops.

—enlisting the material and logistic support of other countries wishing to contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in that African country.

The same source added that Tunisia, as chairman of the OAU, sees that it is preferable to support this framework agreed on by the African countries and by the Security Council and considers that any other initiative outside this framework would further complicate the situation and would hinder the reconciliation and peace efforts in that sisterly African country.

Gabon's Bongo Urges Peacekeeping Force in Rwanda

BR1706152994 Paris LIBERATION in French 17 Jun 94 p 21

[Interview with Gabonese President Omar Bongo by Stephen Smith in Tunis; date not given: "We Need a Peacekeeping Force"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Together with General Eyadema (Togo) and Marshal Mobutu (Zaire), the Gabonese president is one of Africa's "elder statesmen." In his opinion, the Rwandan agreement is a "botched job." Explanations.

[Smith] Everyone is expressing satisfaction with the cease-fire proclaimed in Rwanda. Is it not a success for Africa?

[Bongo] Frankly, I say no. Because the resolution which has been adopted is void of meaning. It does not say when the cease-fire will come into effect, nor when the extra Blue Helmets will arrive in Kigali. Nor does it specify when political negotiations will begin and, finally, it says nothing concrete about picking up the Arusha accords again, signed by the late President Habyarimana and the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] rebels. In fact, it contains nothing more than recommendations. It is not enough. Africa should have stated, very explicitly, what it was demanding and should have given itself the resources to impose this on the warring parties.

[Smith] So you did not vote for the resolution?

[Bongo] No, it was adopted without my vote and in my absence. With the support of other heads of state, I then made a counterproposal. But apparently it was to late.

[Smith] A year ago, at the previous African summit, a "mechanism to prevent, manage, and settle regional conflicts" was set up. What has become of it?

[Bongo] In practice, alas, this settlement instrument does not intervene. Perhaps if our new acting chairman (Tunisian President Ben Ali) goes at it with his customary determination, it will become operational. But if not, it will be yet something else which will not work.

[Smith] Is there not a problem of the changing of the guard in French-speaking Africa? Whenever there is a serious crisis, there are only the old hands, like you, General Eyadema, or Marshal Mobutu, who are present? What about the "La Baule generation" of new African leaders?

[Bongo] They are only just coming on board. They have to learn. One cannot intervene, here or there, without knowing how. Give them time. I am sure that, in two or three years' time, they will know. Then it is going to be very tough for...

[Smith] ...The West?

[Bongo] ...For our interlocutors. There is not just the West.

[Smith] South Africa, the big hope, on the one hand, and Rwanda, the drama, on the other. Between these two poles, where is Africa going?

[Bongo] I believe that Africa will move toward the South African model. Because what we have there—from Mandela's freeing by De Klerk to the election of a former prisoner as president—is a democratic lesson which many of us ought to have applied a long time ago, in particular in the way we treat our opposition. In Rwanda, the logic of coup d'etats still reigns. It is always "Get out of there, so I take your place..." President Habyarimana did not die in an accident. He was assassinated. But if the cease-fire holds, we must deploy a peacekeeping force, evacuate the children, and begin negotiations for an interim government, until elections can be held.

Kuwait

Government To Seek Pre-War Production Quota

LD2206210494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1759 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, 22 June, (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Abd al-Muhsin al-Mid'ij today said "Kuwait will ask for a new production quota when OPEC examines the subject of a higher production ceiling," which could be discussed owing to the stability of the oil market and increasing oil prices.

In an interview with KUNA, al-Mid'ij pointed out that Kuwait would ask for the quota allocated to her before the tyrannical Iraqi invasion—2.2 million barrels a day. Minister al-Mid'ij attributed this Kuwaiti demand to two reasons: first, that "this is the minimum of our rights since they should be equal to those of other states"; second, that Kuwait's production capacity is estimated at 2.4 million barrels a day.

Al-Mid'ij also said he hoped Kuwait's request would be granted. [passage omitted]

Concerning the foreign participation in the oil sector, the Kuwaiti minister said "it is still under review and we expect to reach a final idea about it by the end of this year."

Al-Mid'ij commented on a KUNA question about the resentment of South Korean oil-consuming companies from a Kuwaiti demand to increase the prices by $2 per tonne for the contracts of the second part of 1994. He said the issue of prices was among the issues open for discussion in connection with any commodity and at any time "as long as we have not violated the condition if there was an agreement between us and any other side. It is our right to offer our commodity at the price we think suitable, and it is the right of any side to buy or refrain from buying this commodity."

He pointed out that "for us, the issue of prices should not be interpreted on the basis of making it impossible and difficult for them, because this is a commodity on offer, and when we are convinced that this is [indistinct word] and this is its cost [indistinct words]."

In the course of his statement, he pointed out that the level of (?oil) stockpile in the industrial countries has started to decrease in an usual manner, a matter that would lead to increases in oil prices.

Al-Mid'ij stressed that if the technical and political situation of oil continued until next December, there would be an increase [indistinct word] in oil prices estimated by two dollars. [passage omitted]

He dealt with the penalties which any of the OPEC member countries could face if they did not adhere to their quotas. He pointed out that this would take the form of sending messages to the countries violating this agreement, in addition to subjecting their oil quotas to deductions in the near future.

Al-Mid'aj on Proposed Increase

94AE0134A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 10

[Interview with Kuwaiti petroleum minister by Randah Taqi-al-Din in Vienna; date not given: "Kuwait Negotiating With India and Pakistan to Build High-Capacity Refineries"—first paragraph AL-HAYAH introduction]

[Text] Kuwait's new petroleum minister, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj, has said in an interview with AL-HAYAH in Vienna that Kuwait would restore its former oil refining capacity to what it was before the Iraqi invasion within 10 years. "Kuwait has made a great deal of progress in its negotiations with India and Pakistan to build large and modern oil refineries in both countries," he said. He reaffirmed that Kuwait rejects the idea that the Iraqi deputy secretary general of OPEC, Ramzi Salman, should assume the position of acting secretary general, and said that "Kuwait is with the decision of the international community on the question of reopening the oil pipeline between Iraq and Turkey."

The text of the interview follows:

[Taqi-al-Din] You are Kuwait's new petroleum minister; do you want to introduce a new plan for the oil sector?

[Al-Mid'aj] The oil sector in Kuwait is constantly developing and renewing itself. There are plans put into motion by my predecessors, and there are new plans whose implementation I will oversee in the near future, as Kuwait has emerged from a terrible invasion and the destruction of its oil institutions. They actually began to rebuild the oil sector after the liberation. One thing we are doing is to adopt a new strategy for our oil sector in terms of production, export, and oil projects outside Kuwait.

[Taqi-al-Din] What are the priorities in terms of your oil investments outside Kuwait?

[Al-Mid'aj] We have a long history of investment outside Kuwait; it's nothing new. We have many activities in Europe, the United States, East Asia, and the Arab countries. We have refineries in Europe, we are investing in the gasoline distribution sector, and we are active in oil exploration through KUFPEC [Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company]. Also, our Santa Fe operations are ongoing abroad—these are projects that were operating before, and still are.

[Taqi-al-Din] Are there any new ones?

[Al-Mid'aj] We are now looking at some new areas and will complete our contacts with some of the countries we have actually begun to consult with, such as the countries of the Far East, to implement new oil production projects and get into refining operations. We have now finished one round of negotiations with India to build oil refineries there, and we also have contacts with Pakistan

to start up similar operations in the near term. We still have not decided on the capacity of these refineries, but I believe they will be modern and high-capacity.

[Taqi-al-Din] What is your current production capacity?

[Al-Mid'aj] We have a production capacity of 2.4 million barrels per day [bpd], and we are exporting 2 million. Turning to our refining capacity, in 10 years Kuwait will have restored its refining capacity to what it was before the invasion. Refining capacity in our Kuwaiti refineries will increase by nearly 100,000 bpd. (Refining capacity before the invasion ranged from 800,000-880,000 bpd.) We are now in the final stages of rebuilding the refineries that the Iraqi forces destroyed.

[Taqi-al-Din] It appears that the OPEC conference is unable to choose a new secretary general, because Iran is nominating its ambassador to Tokyo to that post and rejects the will of the majority to appoint former Venezuelan minister Alirio Parra. It is said that if nothing can be worked out, the Iraqi deputy secretary general, Ramzi Salman, will become acting secretary general. What do you think?

[Al-Mid'aj] It is absolutely unacceptable to us that Deputy Secretary General Ramzi Salman be acting secretary general, because the person who is given the post must be neutral, and because the economic organization must have nothing to do with politics. Our view is that the secretary general must be neutral; he must not engage in politics, nor should he impose the policy of one country, or be closer to one country than another. It is a strictly economic organization. I hope we may arrive at a solution and appoint a new secretary general who is not aligned with any country.

[Taqi-al-Din] Are you comfortable with current oil price levels?

[Al-Mid'aj] We will be comfortable if the oil market stabilizes and if prices are reasonable, so there will be no upset in the oil market. We do not approve of disruptions in prices. We always seek to stabilize them, with the cooperation of both sides: the producers and the consumers. Prices are now in the process of improving logically and reasonably to the point where producers are almost satisfied, and yet the prices are not a burden to consumers.

[Taqi-al-Din] We hear a great deal these days about how the United States has permitted the reopening of an oil pipeline from Iraq and Turkey, in order to help Turkey. What is your position on this?

[Al-Mid'aj] Our position is that of the international community: There is an economic danger to Iraq, for well-known reasons. We are with the international community, and if it makes a decision, we will support it. I believe that the international community will not put up with any political game the Iraqis may have in mind, but we are with the international community in any decision it makes on this subject

Court Confirms Jail Terms for Collaborators

LD2006133194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jun—The Court of Appeal today confirmed a life sentence handed down to a Kuwaiti national convicted of cooperating with troops of the Iraqi regime during their occupation of the State of Kuwait, and cancelled a 4 million dinar fine against him. The same court supported a 10-year sentence with labor against a Jordanian national who will then be deported after serving the full term. It exempted him from paying a fine worth more than 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

A state security court had convicted Ra'd Ibrahim, the 35 year-old defendant in the first case, in October and sentenced him to life imprisonment with labor and without parole. It also committed him to pay back 2,630,330 Kuwait dinars as well as a fine worth that amount.

As for the defendant in the second case, Nasir Muhammad Mahmud, a 50 year-old Jordanian national, who was convicted of collaborating with the Iraqi regime, undermining the loyalty of the Kuwaiti armed forces and lowering their morale by writing articles against the State of Kuwait in a newspaper called AL-NIDA' [passage indistinct]

Foreign Minister, ICO Leader Discuss Cooperation

LD2106214694 Riyadh SPA in English 1923 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, June 21, SPA—The Kuwaiti First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met here on Tuesday [21 June] with the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference Dr Hamid Algabid who is currently visiting Kuwait.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between Kuwait and the ICO.

Shaykh Sabah also conferred today with the parliament speaker of Comoros Islands Mr Fernandez who is visiting Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to UK Premier on Yemen

LD2106194694 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to His Excellency British Prime Minister John Major. The message was delivered by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal when he met His Excellency John Major at Downing Street in London today.

The British prime minister's official spokesman told the Saudi Press Agency that the meeting focused on the situation in Yemen. He reiterated that Britain shares the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's concern over the serious situation in Yemen.

He affirmed furthermore that Britain supports UN Security Council resolution 924 and the mission of UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to Yemen.

Yemen Discussed With French Foreign Minister

LD2306001094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, met Alain Juppe, French foreign affairs minister, in Paris yesterday.

During the meeting, the developments of the situation in Yemen were discussed, whereby the two sides affirmed the need to speed the implementation of the cease-fire in Yemen.

Following the meeting, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that Paris and Riyadh were in agreement on the priority of implementing the Security Council's resolution.

His Highness added that the meeting with Juppe also dealt with Saudi-French bilateral relations.

On his part, the French foreign affairs minister stressed that Saudi Arabia and France hoped that the two Yemeni sides would, at the earliest moment, adhere to the cease-fire stipulated by the UN Security Council's resolution No. 924.

Cabinet Examines Yemen Crisis at Weekly Meeting

LD2006193494 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 20 Jun—The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting today in al-Salam Palace in Jeddah under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general.

After the meeting, the Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: After a quick review of a report on the most significant political and military events in the Arab region, the council heard a comprehensive explanation by his royal highness the second deputy prime minister on some topics in the report, primary among which are events on the Yemeni scene. In this context, the information minister said: The council followed with great interest the continuous efforts made by the Security Council through UN Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who still continues his attempts to secure an implementation of Resolution No. 924 calling for a cease-fire throughout all Yemeni territory in order to end the bloodshed and save the lives of the sons of fraternal Yemen. [passage omitted]

The information minister concluded his statement by saying that the cabinet discussed the items on the agenda and issued the following resolution:

Approving negotiations with the Russian Federation with a view to reaching an agreement on joint cooperation between the two countries in various fields. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on New Base, Relations With Iran

LD2206211394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Interview with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and aviation and inspector general, by unidentified correspondents at the King Faysal airbase; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [sentence indistinct]

[Al Sa'ud] The important thing is that youth—university graduates who believe in God—have joined the armed forces. I am very happy to see that.

[Correspondent] Your Highness give us more details on the recent announcement on the establishment of a military base in the south?

[Al Sa'ud] First, the announcement was not made recently; it was made two years ago. Studies and surveys have already been done. If a number of foreign stations and radios have linked the announcement the current situation in Yemen, it is false reporting. The announcement was made two years ago; surveys have been completed. The base will open next year, God willing.

[Correspondent] Will Your Highness please expand on the problem of the Iraqi refugees? Although the kingdom has spent around two billion Saudi riyals since the setting up of the refugee camps in Rafhah, foreign media has nevertheless been saying that the Kingdom mistreats the Iraqi refugees. How do you answer that?

[Al Sa'ud] Anyone who feels sorry for them should take them to his own country.

[Correspondent] What about compulsory conscription? Is the idea going to be revived?

[Al Sa'ud] We do not need it; our youth have shown more than enough enthusiasm. We have to accommodate the young enthusiasts first.

[Correspondent] Did the Ministry of Defense benefit during the Gulf war from the Saudi brothers who volunteered to serve in the army?

[Al Sa'ud] A lot. It has benefitted a lot; many of them joined military academies.

[Correspondent] What about al-Yamamah project?

[Al Sa'ud] It is still on track.

[Correspondent] What about relations with Iran, who has asserted that the Kingdom mistreated the pilgrims?

[Al Sa'ud] Pilgrims were never mistreated. We hope that our relations with Iran will be excellent. This is the policy of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

[Correspondent] What about prisoners from Gulf Cooperation Council countries still held by the Iraqi regime?

[Al Sa'ud] This matter is being examined by the UN Security Council. We hope with God's help that every man will return to his country. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, when will the academy move to the new building?

[Al Sa'ud] Work is progressing normally; the academy will move there in two years' time.

'Contract' Reportedly Put Out on Opposition Figure

JN2006103794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Saudi security agencies have put out a contract on the opposition figure Shaykh Usamah Bin-Ladin. They assigned the job to an assassination group, led by a hit man from an Arab country.

The London-based Committee for the Defense of (Saudi) Legitimate Rights said that Saudi Arabia, which has paid a huge sum to this gang, is apparently trying to stay away from the assassination attempt for domestic reasons connected with tribal vendettas and external reasons connected with the image of Saudi Arabia abroad.

In a related development, Usamah's mo[illegible] as surprised when a police officer prevented her [illegible] oarding a plane that was about to take off, even t[illegible] she had completed airport formalities on her way [illegible]e treated abroad from an incurable disease.

Yemen

Aden Said Pessismistic on Brahimi Initiative

PM2206115794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Report on interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council in the "Democratic Republic of Yemen," by Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo; date not given: "Salih Tells AL-HAYAH: We Will Resist the Fundamentalist State in Sanaa"]

[Text] Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY], has confirmed that the Cairo meetings which began the day before yesterday between Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, and delegations from north and south Yemen to find a mechanism for the promotion and consolidation of a cease-fire, have failed.. He attributed this to many reasons including the level of the northern delegation and the other side's insistence on fighting and failure to honor Security Council resolution 924. Salim Salih, who is also the assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], ruled out intervention by the Arab League to bring these talks under its supervision.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Salih accused the Security Council of being slow. He praised the U.S. position because "it is balanced and views the issue as something which concerns not only Yemen but also the Gulf region and the entire Arabian Peninsula." He urged the Security Council and the international community to "pass deterrent resolutions against the Sanaa government," and he emphasized that "Democratic Yemen will on its own resist the threat of the fundamentalist state in Sanaa until the brothers and friends understand the situation." He pointed out that "the Sanaa government is at present carrying out imamite practices (reference to the imams reign) in the villages."

He spoke of the "existence of Egyptian and Arab recognition of Democratic Yemen and said that such recognition exists and is implied."

He expressed "pessimism" about the Brahimi initiative's chances of success. He said: "The composition of the northern delegation and the reports from Aden about the other side's movements and concentrations around Aden and its criticism of the Gulf states all reflect the Sanaa government's determination to escalate and not to comply with the cease-fire resolutions." He added that "the northern delegation has no authorization to order a cease-fire or consolidate a cease-fire. To them it is a question of circumventing these efforts and continuing to try to gain time in order to continue the war. The northern delegation's level of representation reflected Sanaa's lack of credibility as far as a positive response to UN resolution 924 [illegible]as concerned. It also showed that they were playing games with the fate and blood of the people, with no indication of a desire to spare blood or respond to the appeals for an end to the war." He added that "the composition of the delegation of Democratic Yemen under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister and Planning Minister Muhsin Abu-Bakr Bin-Farid demonstrated our welcome and positive response to the international efforts and Lakhdar Brahimi's initiative."

Asked why were the Cairo meetings not held at Arab League headquarters and under Arab League auspices, Salim Salih said: "We are now working for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 924, disengagement of forces, and the start of negotiations. We welcomed Lakhdar Brahimi's initiative but the other

side refuses to comply with that resolution and is still shelling Aden and sending military reinforcements from the north to the battlefields in defiance of the Arab and international will."

He accused the Security Council of "being slow" and added: "Developments in terms of the fighting make it necessary for the Security Council and the international community to act and adopt deterrent resolutions against the aggressor party, which continues to violate the cease-fire while the whole world looks on without appropriate reaction." He said: "What matters to us now is that immediate and practical measures should be taken to deter the occupation forces and the invaders and prevent the extermination of the citizens in the south."

He described the U.S. position as "balanced and interested in security and stability because it views what is taking place in Yemen as something which concerns not only Yemen but also the situation in the Gulf states and the entire Arabian Peninsula." He said that the U.S. government's warning to the Sanaa government regarding the shelling of Aden "reflects a political position."

Asked if during his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the day before yesterday they discussed the question of Egyptian and Arab recognition of Democratic Yemen, he replied: "Egyptian and Arab recognition of Democratic Yemen exists and is implicit." He stressed that "the world now actually recognizes Democratic Yemen as an existing entity on the grounds that there was no progress at the level of the unity merger between the Yemeni Republic in the north and the DRY in the south."

He added: "At any rate, recognition is not the urgent issue now. What is required is a cease-fire and the preservation of what is left of Yemen after the attacks on economic, vital, and civilian establishments and the destruction of the country's resources."

On the turn the war has taken and the fact that some northern leaderships see this war as a "holy and religious" war, he affirmed that "the Arab brothers and friends should understand the danger of the mentality, dream, and ambition of controlling Yemen with a view to building a fundamentalist state." He warned that "the danger of such a state would be a threat not only to Yemen but also to all states in the Arab region." He also said: "Democratic Yemen is not facing an internal situation. There is a fundamentalist movement with clear trends and affiliations with certain parties who interfere in our affairs, especially Iran, Sudan, and Iraq." He added: "We had warned against that danger and now we are resisting it alone. The brothers and friends should understand that."

Al-Iryani Leaves for Talks With Butrus-Ghali

JN2306093494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, left Sanaa for the United States today on a working visit of several days. In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the minister noted that, during his New York visit, he will meet with Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations, and brother Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general, to follow up the situation in the Republic of Yemen.

Al-Iryani added he will then head for Washington to hold meetings and talks with officials at the U.S. Department of State to discuss bilateral relations. The minister of planning and development said he will discuss, during the visit, ways to implement Security Council Resolution 924 under Yemeni unity and constitutional legitimacy. He will also explain to UN and U.S. officials the violations committed by rebels against international legitimacy represented by Security Council Resolution 924 in an attempt to circumvent the content of the resolution to achieve illegitimate objectives.

President Salih Briefs Party Leaders on Situation

JN2206185494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today met with leaders and representatives of political parties and organizations. He briefed them on the latest developments in the situation on the national, political, and military fronts. He also briefed them on the efforts that have been exerted on the foreign level and the nature of the talks that have been held with Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general.

The brother president explained that from the outset, our country stressed its abidance by UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 and its full readiness to implement it. He added that our country proposed five cease-fire initiatives to stop Yemeni bloodshed and to give those who have been misled a chance to join the ranks of unity and legitimacy.

The brother president said the leaders of rebellion and secession insisted on (?rejecting) all initiatives because the UN Security Council resolution did not serve their inhuman and anti-unity objectives. They continued to violate the cease-fire and to escalate the military situation in order to prolong the war and internationalize the Yemeni issue.

The brother president praised the political parties and organizations for their principled stand on the challenges facing national unity at this delicate phase in the history of the homeland. He also praised their commitment to national issues. He said that the challenges facing the homeland have proven the credibility of the people's

national stands and cohesion as they confront the enemies of the homeland, unity, and democracy. He stressed that our country will continue to adhere to the option of unity and democracy as an irreversible option to build a modern Yemen based on the principles of political and party pluralism, economic freedom, the freedom of expression, respect for human rights, developed local government, and progress and comprehensive development throughout Yemen.

The brother president indicated that the next phase requires cooperation and cohesion among our people to rebuild what the treasonous, rebellious gang has destroyed in all fields, starting with supporting the families of the martyrs' and victims in all governorates. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Supplies, Condemns 'Crimes'

JN2206135394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a periodic meeting under Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar this morning. It discussed topics on the agenda. Discussions focused on the supply situation in the republic and on the regulations governing the distribution of the necessary foods and consumer goods.

The cabinet set up a working team to directly supervise all storing, distribution, and transportation operations in order to secure regular delivery of all these goods to all governorates. This is because supplying the necessary commodities to citizens will complement and enhance all military and political field activities.

The cabinet stressed the need for contributions by all official and popular organizations and institutions. It also emphasized the need to pool all efforts in order to make successful the transportation and distribution operations, disburse the stored commodities, and solve the problems pertaining to transportation and distribution operations, in addition to organizing the monitoring operations, implementing strict measures against those who violate the supply regulations and laws, and addressing this issue with seriousness and high discipline on the part of the institutions in charge of control.

The cabinet also discussed a memorandum submitted by the brother minister of planning and development requesting approval of an agreement between the Yemeni government and the Arab Fund [not further identified] on financing a project to rehabilitate the electric, water, and sewage disposal installations in Aden, the economic and commercial capital. The cabinet approved this agreement and asked the parties concerned to make all arrangements in order to accomplish this vital project for Aden, the economic and commercial capital.

In view of what the forces rebelling against the constitutional legitimacy are carrying out in terms of subversive and destructive acts against the vital economic installations—the latest of which was the raid on the power station in Mocha, in the governorate of Ta'izz, which inflicted serious damage, martyred 17 citizens mostly women and children, and wounded 33 others—the cabinet expressed its indignation and condemned these continued crimes committed by the rebels against public property and vital facilities of the homeland and citizens. It also emphasized that those who commit these treacherous crimes will receive punishment sooner or later as criminals acting against the people and the homeland.

Moreover, the cabinet saluted the valiant Armed Forces' great efforts to protect all national gains and achievements, safeguard the civilian and vital installations and public utilities, and maintain security and stability. It stressed the need to increase vigilance in order to foil all hostile and conspiratorial schemes designed to fragment the homeland and destroy its resources and capabilities. [passage omitted]

Presidential Adviser 'Abd-al-Ghani Interviewed

PM2206155294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council in Sanaa, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] It is expected that Security Council states may recognize the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] in the near future. How will you deal with this reality?

['Abd-al-Ghani] First of all, the Security Council's position is very clear through Resolution 924, which proceeds from the UN Charter and stipulates the independence and sovereignty of the state, that is the Arab Republic of Yemen proclaimed on 22 May 1990. Besides, in one of its drafts, the resolution stipulates that it is an application of Article 34. This was omitted because it concerns disputes between two states or more. So the resolution talks about what is happening in the Republic of Yemen. There is no indication at all that the recognition question is on the cards.

[Abu-Husayn] Recognition is on the way, as southern leaders say, because of Sanaa's rigidity and failure to comply with the Security Council resolution. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is untrue. Sanaa complied with and implemented Resolution 924. Actually the fighting was halted for six hours the first time, but the other side violated it. On the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and on the occasion of the unity's fourth anniversary our legitimate forces complied with the cease-fire, but Aden did not, and announced the secession. The fourth time, we complied, but Aden announced its decision to form a government.

We are the legitimate government, and it is in our interests to have a cease-fire. But it is in the rebellious side's interests to continue to fight and to keep the issue alive on the front pages of newspapers. And it is in its interests for the United Nations to continue to issue statements and resolutions, while we complied and welcomed the UN secretary general's envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, and we sent our delegation to Cairo to engage in a dialogue, and we conceded some of the demands we had stressed.

[Abu-Husayn] Like what?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That the dialogue should not be conducted in the tripartite coalition framework, but, rather, in the Republic of Yemen framework in implementation of the Security Council resolution, but the southern leadership refused because it wanted the meeting to be held in the framework of two states. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is your opinion of your bombardment of cities and residential areas and killing of civilians?

['Abd-al-Ghani] First of all, we are not targeting any citizen, civilian or military. This war is imposed on us by some Socialist Party leaders, not all of them. Because the Socialist Party is unionist, and it had the honor of signing the unity agreement with the General People's Congress. This is why I say that the rebels in the south are using civilians as human shields for military purposes and so that public opinion will sympathize with them. I wonder here: What view does public opinion take of shelling Sanaa with the internationally banned Scud missiles, which claimed the lives of 23 citizens? [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Despite all you say, the siege is imposed on Aden, and there are northern intentions to burn it.

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is untrue. We will not burn Aden, because Aden has not responded to the secessionists. It has expelled them, and they now live in world capitals and in safe areas. All governorates of the Republic of Yemen reject these people, who have rebelled against legitimacy and portray themselves as the victims.

[Abu-Husayn] But the people of the south celebrated the DRY's proclamation on 22 May 1990.

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is untrue. That state and its leadership were not set up through elections or a referendum. So we wonder: Under what legitimacy does it rule or represent the people of the south?

[Abu-Husayn] It seems that the dispute is not over unity, but, rather, the way in which it was established, because the south has not ignored the unity, and some southern leaders say that secession has been imposed on them.

['Abd-al-Ghani] True, no Yemeni will dare reject the unity. And if the dispute is over the form of the unity, why have southern leaders rejected the new formulas which we spent months negotiating? I was a member of the dialogue committee with Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and we reached the Pledge and Accord Document by dint of strenuous efforts and continued dialogues, but southern leaders rejected this document.

[Abu-Husayn] But they are demanding that Sanaa comply with the stipulations of the document, saying that the southern state was established on the basis of the principles stipulated in it.

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is designed for public opinion. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] I ask you again, and I want a specific answer: Is it possible to return to a unified state in these conditions?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Why not? Yes, it is possible, provided the people of Yemen are left alone. We are confident that, if that happens, we will find solutions to problems, because what complicates the problem is internationalizing and Arabizing it. Thus we urge the brothers and friends to focus their efforts on supporting unity, and to stop supporting one group against another. They should support the wish of the Yemeni people, who welcomed unity on 22 May 1990.

[Abu-Husayn] Will the abolition of the southern state be among the solutions?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes, the southern state should be abolished, and unity between the two peoples, not two states, established. I requested a meeting yesterday with the brothers from the Socialist Party, especially Salim Salih, who was in Cairo, but he left Cairo and refused to meet with me because he wanted the meeting to be held on the basis of two states—which is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] The south believes that Resolution 924 means halting the fighting first and then engaging in a dialogue.

['Abd-al-Ghani] That is true, but in addition to a phrase which says, in the framework of the Republic of Yemen. We are willing to do that, and I announce through AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that we accept an immediate halt to the fighting as of this very moment, and the time now is 6:30. But I have to receive a telephone call from the other party, announcing its acceptance of this, then we would agree on an unconditional dialogue and on the first matter, that is, a halt to the fighting. The second matter is dialogue: let us negotiate everything within the framework of the Republic of Yemen, legitimacy, and the Security Council resolution. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] How will you deal with the Security Council resolution if they are stepped up to the point of imposing sanctions?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We have not committed a crime for us to be punished, nor have we fought anyone outside our borders.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the results of your meeting with Lakhdar Brahimi in Cairo?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The meeting was very good. We spoke about the importance of implementing the Security Council resolution. I stressed Sanaa's readiness for that, and we agreed to continue consultations and contacts.

[Abu-Husayn] With regard to the Arab League's role, do you want it to continue its endeavors?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Why not? Especially as the League has said from the outset that what is happening in Yemen concerns the Yemenis.

[Abu-Husayn] What is the position of both Iraq and Iran toward you, especially in light of the accusations that they are supporting you militarily?

['Abd-al-Ghani] First of all, Iraq is currently being subjected to an embargo, and if an ant moves out of it, it is under close watch. Second, we are capable of protecting unity and need not import people to defend our unity.

As for Iran, it supports unity politically, and we welcome the position adopted by it or by any other state.

South Steps Up Diplomatic Moves To Force Cease-Fire

PM2206134694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri, Lutfi Shatarah, Hanan al-Badri, and Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Arab Inclination To Consider Yemeni War Threat to Region's Stability"]

[Excerpts] London, Washington, Cairo, Sanaa, Aden, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yesterday, diplomatic sources in Washington and London told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the United States and Britain have agreed to step up efforts to achieve an immediate cease-fire in Aden after northern forces stepped up their bombardment of the city in an indication—so it seems—that Sanaa is preparing to launch an all-out offensive to storm the city following the failure of the efforts made by the UN secretary general's special envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, to secure a cease-fire. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the southern leadership is intensifying its diplomatic moves to step up Arab and international political pressure to force Sanaa to observe a cease-fire and enter negotiations to secure a peaceful solution to the situation. Southern Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj headed for Washington yesterday to hold talks with the U.S. Administration.

Al-Asnaj told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his stopover in London yesterday that he and al-'Attas will brief the U.S. Administration on the latest developments and the total damage, rocket shelling, and heavy artillery bombardment to which Aden and Lahij are being subjected. He said they will urge the UN Security Council to take further practical deterrent measures to prevent further disasters.

He stressed that they will meet with the UN secretary general to discuss Brahimi's report and to reemphasize Aden's commitment to implementing the stipulations of the Security Council resolution without any reservations. [passage omitted]

In Aden, military reports have revealed that 5,000 "Jihad" organization elements, among them foreigners belonging to the so-called "Afghan Arabs" organization, have arrived in the (northern) Red Sea port of al-Hudaydah. The reports stressed that these elements have been moved to the frontlines of the northern forces besieging Aden.

Aden: Enemy Advances Checked; Battles Continue

EA2206204094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Democratic Republic of Yemen Defense Ministry has stated the following: The forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa today continued their desperate offensive attempts to advance in the direction of the capital, Aden. At the same time, they continued their rocket, air, and artillery shelling of residential quarters and economic and service installations in Aden, while our Armed Forces confronted them bravely.

Our Armed Forces prevented any advances by the enemy, and forced him to withdraw and abandon numerous occupied positions. They also inflicted further human and material losses on him. The enemy losses were as follows: 20 tanks, 10 crews members [atqum], five Katyusha rocket launching vehicles, a MiG-21 jet, and hundreds of killed and wounded.

In Shabwah Governorate, our forces, in close coordination with the tribes of Shabwah and popular resistance detachments, continued liquidating scattered remnants and pockets of the forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa. Our forces managed to capture (al-Qat) Camp, two trucks loaded with ammunition, and supply goods.

In Ma'rib Governorate, popular resistance detachments destroyed a meeting site for leaders and supporters of the military regime in Sanaa. In Wadi (Tubah), two troop trucks were completely destroyed. Battles are still continuing on all combat fronts between our defending forces and the (?oppressive) and aggressive forces of the ruling military regime in Sanaa. Victory is our ally, God willing.

Northern Plane Shot Down

LD2206171194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 22 June, KUNA—At noon today, southern antiaircraft defenses shot down a northern warplane that

was raiding Aden. A southern military source has said that the aircraft was trying to raid the television station, which is situated in the mountainous al-Tawahi region.

He added that the northern warplanes conducted more raids on Aden a few hours after the airport was the target of a Katyusha barrage from a northern military launcher. He pointed out that the shells did not hit the airport, but a number of ordinary houses were damaged instead. The source did not give any details on the damage of the missile barrage.

KUNA's correspondent, however, saw a number of fire engines heading to the areas close to the airport, which is situated in the Khur Maksar district in the heart of the city of Aden.

Three Killed, 39 Wounded in Fighting

NC2306064894 Paris AFP in English 0445 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 23 (AFP)—The bombardment of Aden by northern forces resumed at dawn Thursday, with shells and missiles wounding 11 civilians, the city's main hospital said.

As artillery duels between north and south continued near Aden, three southern soldiers were reported killed and 28 wounded. Nine residents of the northern district of Shaykh 'Uthman were wounded by shells falling on the city itself at the rate of two or three a minute, mainly landing near the airport, the al-Jumhuriyah hospital said.

A southern military spokesman said three missiles were fired at Aden, two of which were brought down by anti-aircraft fire. The third exploded on the hills overlooking the town, near the al-Tawahi district. The hospital said two women were wounded in the blast, which badly damaged a number of wooden homes in the district.

Death Toll Updated to 12

NC2306090994 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 23 (AFP)—A heavy northern bombardment of this southern city killed 12 civilians and wounded 98 on Thursday as shells slammed into the fish market and other central sites, hospital officials said.

Wounded soldiers were meanwhile pouring into military hospitals from frontlines 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the city where dawn artillery duels left three southern troops dead and 28 wounded, the officials said.

Two shells hit the fish market at al-Mu'alla on the sea front, killing two people and wounded around a dozen others, several seriously. A salvo of Kaytusha rockets destroyed five houses in the working class district of al-Mansurah. Shells also hit the Khormaksar district near the airport and northern suburbs near the front.

A southern military spokesman said three missiles were also fired at Aden, two of which were brought down by anti-aircraft fire. The third exploded on the hills overlooking the town, injuring two women and damaging wooden houses.

Northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and southerners backing his rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid have been locked in civil war for almost two months.

UN Weapons Inspectors Satisfied With Cooperation

NC2206203394 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Manama, June 22 (AFP)—UN weapons inspectors said Wednesday [22 June] they were satisfied with Iraq's cooperation during their nine-day fact-finding mission there.

The team of nine ballistic weapons experts received answers to their questions about Iraq's missile programme, UN coordinator Roald Opsahl said here.

Opsahl said the team wanted to "check earlier information" on Iraq's missile capacity. The United Nations has banned missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres (93 miles) in Iraq.

The team, led by Frenchman Patrice Palanque, returned to Bahrain Wednesday and will now set up a long-term system to monitor Iraqi weaponry, he said.

Another team of four members, led by Briton Gary Dillon, arrived in Iraq Tuesday, Opsahl added.

The team is to install surveillance cameras at sites where Iraq could restart its nuclear programme.

Meeting UN Security Council Resolution 687 on destroying its weapons of mass destruction is a condition for lifting the UN embargo on Baghdad, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

'Hostile' Air Sorties Protested to Arab League

JN2206120194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft in their violations of Iraqi airspace. These violations constitute a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed the day before yesterday to the Arab League's secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative said that between 9 and 16 June, these aircraft conducted 301 hostile sorties and violated Iraqi airspace after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy attached to his letter lists detailing these violations.

National Assembly, Yemeni Delegation Issue Statement

JN2206195594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1851 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its support for the Yemeni people's struggle against the secessionist and apostate forces in defense of their unity and the unity of their soil and state.

This came in a statement issued at the conclusion of the parliamentary talks that were held between a delegation from the Yemeni House of Representatives and the Iraqi National Assembly.

The statement stresses the Iraqi people's denunciation of the interference of some suspect regional and foreign parties to prolong the fighting and impose the status quo of disunity in order to dismember the Republic of Yemen and jeopardize the unity of its people.

The two sides condemned the continued blockade imposed on the people of Iraq. They called for an immediate end to the blockade since Iraq has implemented all its obligations toward the unfair UN Security Council resolutions issued against it.

The Yemeni House of Representatives delegation visiting Iraq, led by Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, held meetings with officials and heads of unions and professional and popular organizations to explain the latest developments in the situation in Yemen and the efforts to resolve the crisis in a manner that conforms with constitutional legitimacy, which is being defended by the fraternal Yemeni people.

Yugoslav Economic Minister Comments on Visit, Ties

JN2306105694 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 23, INA—Yugoslav economy minister [Milorad Unkovic], who is on a several-day visit to the country said his government is looking forward to resume good ties with Iraq and its leadership, especially in economic fields.

In press statements published here, the minister hailed Iraqis steadfastness despite the tragic consequences resulting from the continuation of the UN-imposed blockade on Iraq.

The imposition of blockade has greatly affected the Iraqi-Yugoslav trade relations, the economy minister pointed out.

Iraq and Yugoslavia were used to exchange goods, equipment, and other industrial supplies. Moreover about half of the latter total needs of oil was used to be imported from Iraq, the visiting minister added.

Furthermore, many Yugoslav companies had implemented billion-dollars worth strategic projects in various parts of Iraq just before the U.S.-led aggression and the imposition of the sanctions.

According to the Yugoslav minister, who is also his country's representative to the meetings of the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint economic committee, their presence in Baghdad will help enhance and restore economic and scientific cooperation.

He referred to the current political situation in Yugoslavia, stressing that relations between countries of the world must be based on firm and equal grounds.

The Yugoslav minister added that the United States was the party responsible for the collapse of Yugoslavia and the eruption of civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nevertheless, the Yugoslav government and people are still fighting and struggling to get independence, he concluded.

On the other hand, minister of planning, Samal Majid Faraj, on Sunday [19 June] met with the Yugoslav economy minister and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed means of boosting bilateral relations.

Regime, KDP Reportedly Resume Negotiations

PM2206144194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Barzani Has Resumed Negotiations With Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] London— AL-HAYAH has learned from informed Iraqi Kurdish sources that Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], has resumed negotiations with Baghdad.

The sources said that the party sent one of Barzani's senior aides to Baghdad, where he held talks 11 and 12 June. They confirmed that a KDP delegation including KDP Central Committee Member Yunis Ruzbayani and 'Izzat Sulayman Bik, a prominent party figure, visited Baghdad 10 June and met with President Saddam Husayn's son Qusayy. The results of the talks are not known.

The sources said that the three figures [as published] went to the Iraqi capital via the Fa'idah point on the dividing lines between the areas under the Iraqi Army's control and the areas under the control of the Kurdistan Front [KF]. They added that Falak al-Din Kaka'i, a prominent member of Barzani's party, confirmed in an interview broadcast by the Voice of America's Kurdish service Sunday night that the Turkish Government had asked the party seven months earlier to start a dialogue with the Iraqi Government. [passage omitted]

The same sources added that the KDP "perhaps interpreted the Turkish request as being a reflection of the Western and particulary the U.S. position." They did not rule out the possibility that the negotiations between Barzani and Baghdad might cause "more tension between the Kurdish leaders and, generally, in the ranks of the Iraqi opposition." [passage omitted]

Paper Refutes Reports of Calm in Kurdistan

JN2306104294 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 23, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad said the natural state that realizes peace and security to Iraqi Kurds is the state that rejects concepts of the traitors and agents and commits to Iraq's integrity.

A paper article here today said that events taking place in north Iraq scoff at the reported cessation of fighting between the cliques of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani. The paper referred to the ongoing operations of kidnapping, physical liquidation and the state of panic and fear that had motivated Kurdish families to evict their homes and villages.

The paper said the tragedy of Kurds in the north where cliques of Barzani and Talabani were fighting each other, would continue in their presence, bringing further daily bitter tortures and catastrophes.

Turkoman Party Rejects Involvement in Conflicts

PM2206162594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Turkoman Party Refuses To Be Dragged Into Conflicts in Northern Iraq"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Iraqi Turkoman National Party has called for the withdrawal of the armed militias from residential areas in northern Iraq and emphasized the need for "a return to the language of dialogue and rejection of the language of arms," and it refused to be dragged into the conflicts.

A statement sent by the party to AL-HAYAH said that attempts have been made to attack the party's offices and buildings, including "the cowardly attempt which targeted the Society in Aid of the Poor, which is attached to the Turkoman Party, committed by people whose identity and party affiliation were known." It mentioned the killing of Rushdi Tahsin, member of the party's Irbil Committee and member of the Administrative Committee of the Turkoman Human Rights Organization, and party member Ahmad Junbaz and his son Mustafa. It requested that the implications of the crime be exposed.

It maintained that "the collapse of authority and administration in the region" as a result of the fighting between the parties of Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani—the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party—had "resulted in anarchy and lawlessness endangering the lives of the population." It added that tension persisted in the areas under the control of the two parties and that "the Turkomans, led by the Turkoman National Party, intend to pursue a peaceful democratic course in the struggle for the achievement of freedom and democracy in Iraq. All the cheap ways of trying to divert them from these principles will fail....

The Turkomans will remain outside the conflicts and disputes despite all the attempts and plans to involve them."

Authority To Manage Awqaf Properties Established

JN2206180794 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 11 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by Karim al-Hamadani]

[Text] The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has established the Authority for Management and Investment of Awqaf Properties. Speaking to al AL-QADISIYAH, Authority Acting Director General Tariq 'Aziz Rashid Nasir said: The establishment of the Authority has come in implementation of Revolution Command Council Decision No. 176, according to which the Authority's Law No. 18 of 1993 was issued. The Authority will be managed by a council consisting of the minister of Awqaf as chairman, three men of religion, the director general of the Authority, and four experts in the fields of economic, financial, administrative, legal, engineering, and agricultural affairs. The council shall exercise all powers that relate to the management and investment of awqaf properties in accordance with the provisions of Islamic law, with the exception of those awqaf properties that are under private management.

The director general explained: The Authority will invest these properties in a manner that guarantees their development and achieves economic viability while observing the conditions set by the trustees and disposing of religious trusts in the correct Islamic manner. The Authority's budget will be independent of the state's general budget and will be self-financed. The Authority will fix its own annual revenues and expenditures in accordance with the provisions of Islamic law. The Authority's budget will consist of revenues from religious trusts, rents, grants, and donations in accordance with the law.

The acting director general pointed out that the Authority intends to open up branches in the governorates in light of the size of religious trusts in each governorate.

Court Passes Amputation Sentences on Thieves

JN2206191594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] The Diyala criminal court has passed hand amputation sentences on two culprits and ordered that a third partner be apprehended for the crime of stealing five carpets from the Buhruz al-Kabir Mosque in the Ba'qubah District on the night of 20 January 1994. The culprits are 'Aziz Sa'd Dahash, a 32-year-old employee; Nadir 'Ali Fulayyih, a 23-year-old soldier; and Faruq Ahmad, a 37- year-old retiree and fugitive. The perpetrators used a government vehicle belonging to the Water and Sewage Department of the Kan'an Subdistrict.

Government Vehicles To Transport Employees

JN2206170294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The leader president, may God preserve and protect him, has ordered the following:

I. A. Vehicles—Cars, pickups, landcruisers, and other vehicles belonging to government institutions and departments that are not linked to a ministry shall be used to transport government employees to and from their departments to their full capacities.

B. Fares shall be obtained from the users of this facility as determined by the minister concerned and they shall be deposited in the fund referred to in Paragraph II below.

II. A. Employees who are below the grade of director general and who use their private vehicles in their movements to and from their departments shall transport some of their colleagues, depending on the capacity of their vehicles, in return for what is paid to them in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph IV below. Whoever declines to provide this facility shall be punished by being dismissed from his post and deprived of his retirement rights.

B. Each institution or department that is not linked to a ministry shall set up a fund to be called the "Employees Aid Fund."

C. The revenues of the fund referred to in Clause B above shall consist of the following:

1. Fares obtained from employees benefiting from this decision.
2. Donations and grants.

D. The owners of the private vehicles referred to in Paragraph II.A above shall be given a monthly cash award to be determined by the department concerned and to be paid from the abovementioned fund.

III. A. The institutions and departments that are not linked to a ministry shall issue the necessary implementation guidelines in accordance with the directive that was discussed by the cabinet at its meeting on 7 June 1994.

B. The institutions and departments that are not linked to a ministry shall make their observations and suggestions with regard to the best implementation of the abovementioned guidelines.

IV. Directives and guidelines contradicting the implementation of these measures shall be canceled.

Paper Reports Drug Scarcity Fuels Disease

JN2206122394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] The number of patients who called at popular medical clinics in 1993 complaining of different diseases

was more than 8 million, while the number of patients who called at these clinics in 1992 was not more than 6 million.

Dr. 'Imad Jassam [not further identified] has said the increase in the number of patients is due to malnutrition suffered by children, mothers, and old people and to the scarcity of essential drugs for them. He pointed out that the number of patients suffering from chronic diseases has exceeded 328,000.

Dr. Jassam added that popular clinics in all governorates employ a total of 88 specialist doctors, 540 general practitioners, 92 dentists, and more than 630 members of the health care and nursing professions.

Lack of Heart Medicines Due to 'Unfair Embargo'

JN2206132794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] The National Medicines Selection Board at the Ministry of Health has approved the dispensing of Izoline 50 mg [name as transliterated] to patients suffering from angina pectoris [a heart attack] instead of Angipist [name as transliterated]. A Health Ministry source said that this measure was taken due to the unavailability of Angipist due to the unfair embargo on medicines for the Iraqi people and the UN Sanctions Commission's disapproval of Iraq's request to obtain this medicine from the British Force Whitcome Company [name as transliterated], which supplies Iraq with this medicine.

Saddam Orders Higher Prices for Cotton Seeds

JN2206154794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the price of purchased cotton seeds be raised from 5,000 to 7,000 dinars per tonne. A responsible source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals told INA that leader President Saddam Husayn's order to increase the prices of cotton seeds comes in line with the state's general orientation of providing raw materials for industrial crops. [passage indistinct]

Railways Take Part in Transporting Crops

JN2206161894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahid Hatjan]

[Excerpt] The Iraqi General Railways Establishment has begun transporting wheat and barley crops from the current agricultural season from production areas to storage areas in the various governorates. Announcing this, Establishment Director General Sabri Kati' 'Abd said: Immediately upon receiving the transportation plan from the Ministry of Trade, Iraqi railway teams began transporting the two crops from assembly areas in al-Diwaniyah to silos in the governorate of al-Basrah, and from assembly areas in al-Sharqat, al- Wa'iliyah, and Rabi'ah in the governorate of Ninawa to their storage areas in al-Taji, al-Dawrah, Khan Dari, al-Hillah, al-Samawah, and al-Nasiriyah. This is in addition to transporting imported foodstuffs from the Port of Umm Qasr to the stores of the Ministry of Trade. The Iraqi Railway Establishment is also participating in the national campaign of moving harvesters from one governorate to another to ensure the success of the major harvest campaign. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Prepares for Rice Growing Campaign

JN2206123594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] In implementation of the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, to expand on the cultivation of rice, the Baghdad Department of Agriculture has prepared all the arrangements for the rice growing campaign, including the supply of seeds and fertilizers.

Announcing this, agricultural engineer 'Imad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, director of the department, said: Efforts are currently being concentrated on expanding the area to be cultivated with rice in order to ensure our people's needs in the present conditions experienced by our country due to the continuation of the unfair blockade.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman explained that the Baghdad Department of Agriculture is redoubling its efforts to complete the wheat and barley harvest campaign on time. He said that as of 12 June, percentage mechanized harvesting of wheat reached 61 percent and of barley 87 percent.

Rabin Views Military Threat From Arab Countries

TA2206182494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report by Qeren Neubach]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that Syria possesses new Scud missiles which pose an even greater threat than the ones Iraq had during the Gulf war. Rabin made this observation in an address to the Zionist General Council conference. Some of the conference participants, who paraded with anti-government placards, were taken out of the auditorium. Qeren Neubach reports:

[Begin recording] [Neubach] [passage omitted] After the protesters were removed, Rabin was able to speak undisturbed. He devoted a major part of his speech to the military threat from Arab countries. Those who claim that the Arab world has no military option against us, Rabin asserted, are frivolous and irresponsible.

[Rabin] What is happening today in the Arab and Muslim world? In addition to the Scud-B and Scud-C missiles, Syria has just received production capability from North Korea. And, believe me, the quantity and the quality of the Syrian surface-to-surface missiles makes the Iraqi missiles, to which we were subjected during the Gulf war, child's play.

[Neubach] As for the peace process, the prime minister said that the only peace attained so far was achieved after Israel responded to all the territorial demands of Egypt, its negotiating partner at that time.

[Rabin] Those who say we should have peace as well as the entire Golan are saying there will be no peace. There can be no such thing! [end recording]

[Reporting on the same Rabin address, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 22 June adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that what will avert war is the number of tanks on the Golan Heights, and not the number of settlements. It may be annoying, but it is a fact, the prime minister said."]

Warns of War in 3-7 Years

TA2306051394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that if Israel does not make peace with Syria, a war could break out in three to seven years. Rabin reaffirmed that a referendum would be held to decide any serious territorial concessions on the Golan, but, Rabin added, peace without concessions is impossible. The prime minister was addressing the annual conference of the Qeren Hayesod, the United Israel Appeal, in Jerusalem.

[Begin Rabin recording] Those who tell you that we can achieve peace just for peace, peace without all Golan Heights, lie to you. If they could, why they didn't succeed to achieve 1 per mill of the area of the Sinai? How can they mitigate that for peace with Egypt you have to return till the last square inch and to say that vis-a-vis Syria, we can achieve peace just for peace? Total nonsense, total nonsense! Whoever would like to say that he is for all the Golan Heights, he has to prepare for war three, five years, or seven years from now or ten years from now.

We tried to achieve compromise. We have not yet succeeded. I hope that the visit of King Husayn in the United States will bring about the resumption of the talks—not in Washington, here, in the area. I don't need any more the Madrid peace conference but as a background. I need now bilateral talks with every Arab partner. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 June on page 1 carries a similar report on Rabin's address by Batsheva Tsur and news agencies. The report quotes Rabin as saying that "Iraq tried to develop nuclear weapons. Iran is trying to do this. Against whom, if not against Israel?"

["Rabin said, 'There is consensus in Israel about keeping Gush 'Etzyon, Ma'ale Adumim and the Jordan Valley under Israeli control for security and not political reasons,' and added that Jerusalem must remain united forever as Israel's capital."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 23 June carries a report by Esti Perez about an impromptu news conference held by Rabin at the end of his address. In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "I hope very much that what was agreed in the trilateral U.S.- Israel-Jordan meeting in Washington on economic issues and in the bilateral contacts will be pursued in July in our region, which would be much simpler than traveling to Washington."

[Referring to a meeting with King Husayn, Rabin says: "The reported possibility of a public meeting exists. I think that in addition to such a meeting, it is very important to make progress in the negotiations on the components that will ultimately enable the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan."

[Perez adds that the prime minister disclosed that he is scheduled to meet with Palestinian elements next Monday to discuss what he described as outstanding issues. In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "Many issues were left pending. For example, the international passages are not yet operating in accordance with the agreement and the question of the safe passages and civilian issues remain unresolved."]

Peres on Rabin War Remarks, Talks With Syria

TA2306064994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hayim Zissowitz; place and date not given]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Let me first ask you about the Syrian issue. Does the fear of an imminent war—within three to seven years, as the prime minister put it—justify or call for greater political compromises on Israel's part with regard to the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I do not think that was what the prime minister meant. We make compromises not out of fear of war but because we want to attain peace.

[Zissowitz] The prime minister's remarks sound like an attempt to prepare the people for a compromise on the Golan Heights.

[Peres] Yes, that definitely must be done. We began talking about a compromise on the Golan Heights at the Labor convention on the eve of the last Knesset elections. We did not conceal our position. We stated it loud and clear, and there is no reason to change those positions.

[Zissowitz] Does the fear of war determine or influence the positions presented by Israel in the negotiations and the pace at which it would like the negotiations to proceed?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think that what influences them is the desire to reach genuine peace for both sides. Three situations are possible: war, peace, and no war and no peace, which is the current one. The current situation exacts a heavy toll—first and foremost: a frenzied arms race. Some people estimate that the Middle East spent $1 trillion on arms during the last decade. This is really scandalous. This deprived children of food and youths of education. What for? In addition, there is suspiciousness, kidnappings, exchanges of fire. Although this does not directly apply to the Syrian-Israeli border, such a phenomenon exists in Lebanon, where the Syrians have a say in a variety of issues.

[Zissowitz] You said we recently presented interesting proposals to the Syrians. Could you elaborate on those proposals?

[Peres] No, I am afraid I cannot.

[Zissowitz] Could you at least tell us through which channel these proposals were relayed, seeing that the Washington talks have not resumed?

[Peres] It is a very specific channel. We submitted our views on the way to attain an arrangement with the Syrians to the Americans. I would like to reiterate that this arrangement consists of three interrelated and parallel issues: security, peace, and withdrawal. There can be no arrangement with the Syrians based on their demand that we first answer one question and then proceed to discuss other issues. They want us to first answer the question about a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights and then to proceed to discuss other issues. That is totally inconceivable!

[Zissowitz] Is interesting proposals your description or that of the Syrians?

[Peres] It is my description. I do not speak for the Syrians.

[Zissowitz] Has there been any response on their part?

[Peres] There has been no response conducive to a breakthrough. I think the Syrians want to pursue the negotiations, but their response has not been enough to enable us to launch real negotiations. We keep talking about the nature of the negotiations. After all, how can one normalize relations without normalizing the negotiations? Let us tell it like it is: In this day and age, negotiations are public. Today every citizen is a diplomat, and rightly so. He listens to the radio, watches television, analyzes what he hears, and wants to be sure. We are the representatives of the people. We are not a small ruling clique, as is the case in other places.

[Zissowitz] Are there any secret contacts with the Syrians?

[Peres] No, and I am sorry about that. This element is also missing. With regard to all the talk about credibility or about keeping the situation obscure: In all peace negotiations, there is a part that is covert and shrouded in mystery. It cannot be otherwise. All the initial positions cannot be revealed publicly.

[Zissowitz] Has Israel proposed to the Syrians, via the Americans, to hold a secret meeting between the prime minister and President al-Asad?

[Peres] I do not know about a secret meeting. After all, we say publicly and openly that we are prepared to hold a meeting at any level whatsoever, from the level of the president and the prime minister through the cabinet level; there must be a diversity of levels. Let me say this humorously: In the end, it is only the political level that is entitled to make mistakes. Peace cannot be attained without committing so-called mistakes—that is, without raising new and creative ideas, without trying to look for ways to overcome various obstacles. Having taken part in the negotiations with the Palestinians, let me tell you that this means endless days and nights of working on different ideas, of confrontations, and of ups and downs. This is the way it is. This is the nature of negotiations, considering that we start out with very deep differences, with long-standing mistrust, with a suspiciousness that has almost become second nature, and with a great deal of skepticism on both sides as to whether genuine peace and a different type of relations can be attained. As far as I am concerned, I have no doubt that there is no alternative to peace, neither for the Syrians nor for us.

[Zissowitz] The government today marks two years in power. Could you estimate whether the signing of a peace treaty with Jordan or with Syria can be expected next year?

[Peres] Look, I cannot make any prophecies. At best, I can predict 50 percent of the story. I can reasonably assume that this is definitely possible, but I cannot say that with certainty. It is very hard to decipher what really

happens in Syria or what goes on in the Syrian president's mind and heart, and it is even more difficult to guess or make predictions.

[Zissowitz] Is a meeting with King Husayn or a visit to Israel and Jerusalem expected to take place soon?

[Peres] I very much hope so. There are hardly any problems between us and Jordan that cannot be resolved. In my opinion, Jordan and Israel are wasting time and money for no reason. We could have made the economies of both countries prosperous and turned our border into a blossoming area.

[Zissowitz] Well, let us look inward. After two years in power, what do you consider the government's most stinging failure?

[Peres] I do not think there has been any stinging failure. Let me say it fair and square. Here we have an exceptional combination of three things: a peace process, continued immigration to Israel, and continued economic growth. This is an exceptionally strong combination. Forget the blaring headlines and empty talk.

[Zissowitz] Nothing has failed?

[Peres] That would be an exaggeration. There have certainly been failures, which is only natural. I am talking about the really big things. Paradoxically enough, I think today the Jewish people is experiencing one of its peaks, perhaps one of the highest in its history. On the other hand, it is facing great dangers. My God! At the peak of our strength, we are being threatened by dangers unprecedented in our history. Incidentally, these are more of a spiritual than of a physical nature. Our problem is the survival of our people and our Jewish identity in the face of assimilation and our shrinking numbers. I would even go so far as to say that while the Jewish state is experiencing spring, the Jewish people is experiencing autumn.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, sir.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Opposition 'Sharply' Reacts to Rabin War Remarks

TA2306070994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The opposition has sharply reacted to the prime minister's remarks about a possible war with Syria if a territorial arrangement is not attained with it.

The Likud says that the prime minister's remarks reflect a lack of wisdom and signal to the Syrians that Israel is capitulating to their threats and is willing to cede security assets. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud is demanding that Mr. Rabin submit to the Knesset all the proposals that have been relayed to the Syrians recently.

Tzomet says that the prime minister is sapping Israel's resistance. Moledet says that Mr. Rabin, who has to date talked about peace, is now speaking about war, which is a clear sign of his failure.

Peres on Proposals Submitted to Syria, 'Arafat

TA2206191194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres says that Israel has conveyed several interesting proposals to Syria, and if they are accepted, a breakthrough will ensue. Minister Peres did not specify the content of the proposals, although he noted that they focused on the need to conduct negotiations in three interlinked and interdependent spheres: peace, security, and border pullback.

As for negotiating venues, Minister Peres does not think substantive negotiations can be held on what he termed the narrow path of the Washington talks.

He further said the negotiations should be opened up to high-ranking levels to the extent possible, and that they should be conducted away from the public eye.

Replying to our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon's question, the foreign minister said that Yasir 'Arafat has not submitted a request to visit Jerusalem so far, and for that reason, no date for his arrival has been set.

Netanyahu: No Syrian Threat While IDF Holds Golan

TA2306113294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks about the danger of war with Syria elicited sharp criticism from opposition members. The Likud, Tzomet, and Moledet factions said that it is most deplorable that the prime minister is attempting to prepare Israeli pubic opinion for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights through threats of war. Here is what Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu had to say:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] What the prime minister apparently fails to understand is that the danger of war lies only in his blabbering about it. The reason the Syrians have not and will not fire the missiles they already possess at Israel is the simple fact that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is sitting on the Golan Heights at zero-range from Damascus. These missiles will become a real threat only if the IDF withdraws from its positions on the Golan Heights. [end recording]

'New Positive Points' in King Husayn Remarks Seen

TA2206190394 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] Prior to his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington today, King Husayn said he did not rule out the possibility of meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin in Bill Clinton's presence. Prime minister's bureau sources believe that a public Rabin-Husayn meeting is indeed to be expected in the coming months. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin Rosen recording] [passage omitted] Although Husayn's remarks should be viewed also in the context of his search for military and economic aid from the U.S., Israeli evaluating elements perceive numerous new positive points in his remarks at the Washington news conference. [passage omitted]

Prime minister's bureau sources assess that a public meeting between the foreign minister and the Jordanian prime minister will soon take place, to be followed by a public meeting between the prime minister and King Husayn in the fall. Will Husayn sign a separate peace agreement with Israel? On this point, the assessment says he will not, that the king will take every possible step up to the formal act of signing an agreement. [end recording]

Jordanians Reportedly Visit, Discuss Haifa Access

JN2306102494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Haifa Port Director (Mandi Zalsman) has revealed that a team of Jordanian businessmen recently visited Israel and expressed interest in the facilities provided by the Port of Haifa to act, in the time of the desired peace, as an outlet for Jordan on the Mediterranean.

In statements to our correspondent Shafiq Mansur, the Haifa Port director said the Jordanians showed they are very well aware of the achievements scored by the port and the development projects there. The team asked if Haifa Port can provide services such as storage, shipping, and unloading of Jordanian goods and containers and if there was a plan to set up a free zone in Haifa Port.

Jordan's Right To Land Recognized Before Treaty

TA1706114994 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Israel has agreed to recognize Jordanian sovereignty over territories in the 'Arava, especially in the Dead Sea area, even before the signing of an official peace treaty between the two states, political sources in Jerusalem confirm. These lands take up tens of thousands of dunams, which Israel annexed over the years in the wake of drilling for water and due to the flow of the Jordan River.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in recent interviews it must be acknowledged that the Dead Sea is not a fixed lake, but shifts several kilometers from time to time.

We recall that the Jordanians are demanding that territories spread over some 360 sq km, chiefly in the 'Arava and mainly uninhabited, be transferred to their sovereignty.

Shahal: No Plans To Release Yasin 'for the Moment'

TA2206171994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says that for the moment there are no plans to release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from prison. Answering questions in the Knesset, Shahal conceded also that there was a legal problem in enforcing any pledge signed by released Palestinian detainees not to return to terrorism.

In response to an appeal by Knesset members Sandberg and Ba-Gad, the minister said that he would raise at cabinet level their request to have Kakh members under administrative detention sign a similar pledge. If they then promise to desist from terror, they could be released.

Dayan Replaces Shahaq in Talks With Palestinians

TA2206170194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned from informed sources that Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, has stepped down as head of the Israeli delegation in the talks with the Palestinian side. Our correspondent adds that Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the General Staff Planning Branch, will replace Major General Shahaq in the talks with the Palestinians.

General: Hizballah Violating Previous Understandings

TA2206170994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, Northern Command commander, by Salman Tawil in Haifa on 22 June—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tawil] Would you say the Hizballah use of Sagger missiles against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces constitutes a new element in their combat tactics?

[Mordekhay] They have used Sagger missiles in the past. What we do find grave and unacceptable is that some of

the gunfire came from inside houses, from inside inhabited areas in the outskirts of Tibnin. Their use of the civilian establishment, the residents, the houses, and the villages to shoot at us greatly contravenes previous understandings. [passage omitted]

Baraq: Battle Against Hizballah To Continue

TA2206105494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, said Hizballah has recently sustained dozens of fatalities and casualties from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army], but continues trying to hit us. The battle against Hizballah will continue, using all means available. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that on leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the chief of staff said there has been a real decline in terrorism and disturbances in the Gaza Strip, and a certain decline in Judaea and Samaria, but noted that he would not count on that in the long run. He believes terrorism and disturbances in the Gaza Strip will continue to be on a low level, but might grow in Judaea and Samaria.

Security Forces Uncover Samaria Islamic Jihad Group

TA2206164594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] In Qalqilyah in western Samaria security forces have captured an Islamic Jihad terror band. The five members are suspected of being involved in the murder of an alleged collaborator with Israel in the center of Qalqilyah several days ago. Security forces also seized three weapons, including the gun which belonged to the murdered man. One suspected member of the band is believed to have fled and taken refuge in Jericho.

Two Soldiers Wounded By Roadside Bomb in Nabulus

TA2306063894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Two soldiers were wounded early this morning in Nabulus by a roadside bomb activated against an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. They were treated on the spot and evacuated. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that searches of the site uncovered another bomb, which was safely defused.

Fatah Member Gets 10 Life Terms

TA2306081194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The military court in Nabulus has handed down 10 life sentences to 'Abd-al-Rahim Hasan Shadid, a 24-year-old Fatah member from a village near Nabulus. He was convicted of eight counts of murder of Palestinians who were said to have cooperated with Israel and of wounding four others, as well as three counts of attempting to attack Israeli soldiers. Rifles, a machine gun, pistols, and grenades were found in his home. Shadid confessed and said he had no regrets about carrying out the violence.

Meanwhile, Fatah members serving life prison terms have been freed recently in the framework of the Cairo accord. One of them was sentenced to nine life terms for the murder of at least nine Palestinians on the grounds they cooperated with Israel.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 23 June on page 16 carries a report by David Regev adding: "Thirty-eight Palestinian terrorists who were released in the last few months as part of the agreement with the PLO and who resumed their terror activities have once again been imprisoned by the security forces.

["Sources said the security forces are furious about the releases and their inability to keep track of the discharged prisoners, many of whom resume their terror activities."]

Foreign Ministry's Savir on Rabat Conference Results

TA1706183594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir by Shlomo Ganor in the studio on 17 June—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; processed from the Hebrew]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Savir, what were the results of the fifth round of multilateral talks, which ended last night in Rabat?

[Savir] There were representatives from 14 Arab countries, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, the United States, Japan, Russia, and Europe. We decided on approximately 35 projects. We agreed to strengthen economic cooperation. We decided that the economy must be based on open borders and the free movement of commodities. For the first time, it was decided to establish a permanent Middle East framework, in which Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt, and Israel would participate, to monitor various regional projects in the fields of transportation, tourism, and electricity. I believe that the main achievement of the Rabat conference was the sense shared by all the participants that through economic cooperation and by working together, we can develop the region.

[Ganor] What viable regional plans were agreed on?

[Savir] The main issue this time was tourism. A whole day was devoted to this subject. There are various facets pertaining to tourism. Work has begin on feasibility surveys for roads and railway tracks. During this round, the United States proposed a plan to promote civil aviation between the countries in the region. An instructional center will be established in Egypt to train qualified personnel to handle regional tourism. Swiss experts

will prepare feasibility studies in al-'Aqabah, Elat, and Jericho. Approximately 1.5 million tourists visit here each year. As peace draws near, these figures should rise to European levels. Similar projects are being formulated in the fields of agriculture and with regard to linking the region's electricity grids. Feasibility studies will soon be completed, and then we will have to attract investments from the private sector. This issue was discussed as well.

[Ganor] What time frames are we talking about?

[Savir] We are talking about uninterrupted work. Whenever a round of talks such as the recent one in Rabat takes place, attention is focused on the multilateral economic talks; however, experts now hold limited conferences on specific subjects—whether it be tourism, transportation, or communications—almost every week. These experts are about to complete feasibility studies. I believe that the crowning achievement this time was the unprecedented discussion on the establishment of a financial mechanism to finance these projects. Second, a conference with the participation of the private sector will take place in Marrakech in November, at the initiative of Foreign Minister Peres. These projects will be presented to the managers of the largest U.S., Japanese, European, and Middle Eastern companies, including Israel. An attempt will be made to attract them to invest here. The Middle East understands that it must function as a region, not just as Egyptians, Jordanians, and Israelis. If we do not coalesce as one economic region, the international community will not invest here, because the various regions of the world are competing for funds.

[Ganor] What is the probability of Syria joining the multilateral talks?

[Savir] That is hard to say. This decision is for Syria to make. At this stage, it has still not joined; however, representatives from the EC and Japan said that they visited Damascus on the eve of the Rabat conference and sensed great Syrian interest in all these projects. The Syrians asked the Europeans to return to Damascus to brief them on the results. Perhaps Syria is beginning to understand that the train has already left the station and that this opportunity must not be missed. Ultimately, not only will Syria contribute to the peace process, but the peace process will also contribute to the Syrian economy. I believe that the multilateral track has now become too important for any party to want to remain outside. No one can afford to remain outside. As I said before, however, this is a Syrian decision, and it is undoubtedly linked to progress in the bilateral talks.

[Ganor] In your talks with the Moroccan representatives, was there any agreement on how to translate the special relationship between the two countries into diplomatic ties?

[Savir] We were given a very warm welcome by the Moroccan Government. We held various talks. At this stage, there is a great deal of very positive normalization in our ties with Morocco, but we have still not reached the stage of formalized relations. We discussed the strengthening of economic ties. Look, one keeps on meeting Israeli tourists in Rabat. When we left, we ran into a delegation of 300 people at the airport. The Moroccan Manufacturers Association expressed its desire to formalize ties with its Israeli counterpart. Therefore, our relations are growing stronger. We are seeing the fruits of peace, although we have not yet established diplomatic relations. Let us fill in the contents first, and the framework will undoubtedly follow.

[Ganor] Thank you, Mr. Savir.

'Warming' in Ties With Southeast Asia States Seen

TA1806183194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] There has been a warming in relations between Israel and the Muslim countries of southeast Asia. Foreign Ministry officials from Bangladesh and Pakistan secretly visited Israel several weeks ago. Sources at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, however, do not expect the imminent establishment of diplomatic relations. Our political correspondent Imanu'el Rosen reports:

Bangladesh, a calamity-stricken Islamic country in southeast Asia, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Several weeks ago, an economic delegation from Bangladesh held a secret visit to Israel. This came a short time after a visit by a senior foreign ministry official from Dacca. Senior Israeli foreign ministry officials have expressed the assessment that Bangladesh, out of all the Islamic countries in southeast Asia, is the closest to establishing ties, perhaps even diplomatic relations, with Israel. However, even Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government prefers to move slowly and cautiously while maintaining clandestine ties.

Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, cooled off relations with Israel after the public meeting between President Suharto and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Although the two countries have economic and other ties, these activities remain covert.

Despite the fact that Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto still refuses to meet Israeli leaders in public, she permitted a senior foreign ministry official from Karachi to visit Jerusalem several weeks ago and meet with the prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Even Afghanistan is in the picture; however, meetings between its representatives and Israeli officials have been limited to the United Nations building until now.

Back in Jerusalem, foreign ministry officials assert that all the meetings so far have been with low-level officials, not with ministers or heads of state. Nevertheless, Muslim southeast Asia is moving closer to Israel.

King Husayn, Delegation Continue Talks in Washington

Military Agreement Expected

PM2106143094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "King Husayn Expects Washington's Support for Demarcation of Borders With Israel"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Official political circles attach great importance to King Husayn's talks in Washington and link success to the possibility of making quick progress in the negotiations with Israel over the next three months. The official sources say that they do not rule out the possibility of several bilateral agreements on various issues on the agenda, including demarcation of international borders, water rights, and security arrangements linked to the border demarcation.

The sources expect a military agreement to be concluded with Washington committing the United States to supporting Jordan's security and providing arms and advanced modern equipment for the Jordnaian security organs and Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

King Meets With Clinton

JN2206183494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Report from Washington by correspondent Murid Hammad—recorded; italicized passages in English]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn began the third and final day of a state visit to the United States by meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The U.S. President was on hand to welcome his majesty on his arrival at the White House.

The U.S. President emphasized his country's support for Jordan.

[Begin recording] [Hammad] [words indistinct] *Jordan's [word indistinct] peace in the Middle East, and [word indistinct] people back home [words indistinct] in ths regard, and what are (?the words) you would have for the Jordanian people?*

[Clinton] *The United States is prepared to do a lot to try to make peace a success, both from the security point of view and from an economic point of view. My message to the Jordanian people is that they should support the work the king is doing now. He is clearly working to protect the long-term interests of the people of Jordan and is being very careful and forthright and still courageous in this peace process. And that the United States will support the friends of peace not just in the aftermath of the peace agreement, if one can be achieved, but over the very long run. We believe that our interests are very much bound up with the success of Jordan and Israel and Syria and Lebanon and all the other parties in the Middle East. We think it's a very important part of our future. And we intend to be there in a very strong way.*

[Hammad] *Does that include also helping Jordan (?economically?)*

[Clinton] *Absolutely.* [end recording]

The Jordanian and American sides began an expanded session attended on the Jordanian side by the prime minister; the Royal Court chief; his majesty's political adviser; Prince Talal Bin- Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary; and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington. There will be a closed session between his majesty the king and the U.S. President and a special luncheon attended by his majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur and Bill Clinton and the first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Yesterday, the king visited the U.S. Congress where he conferred with House Speaker Thomas Foley and then the chairman and members of the House Foreign Relations Committee. The meeting was held at the committee's initiative for an update on Middle East developments, and the peace process in particular. His majesty the king said Jordan approached the Jordanian track from the perspective of the implementation of the joint agenda, Jordan's sovereignty and Arab coordination. Jordan, his majesty added, will not initiate a separate solution and that, in that regard, other Arab parties had gone ahead of Jordan. His majesty said that how fast Jordan reaches a settlement with Israel largely depends on Israel's accommodation of the requirements of peace.

Asked about lifting the boycott of Israel, his majesty said that depends primarily on the Israeli position on banning Jordanian goods bound for Palestinian territory and whether Israel will reconsider its protectionist posture on trade.

Jordan will extend what support it can for the Palestinian brothers to enable them to administer the self-rule areas on a case-by-case basis and whenever the Palestinians request assistance as needs arise.

Asked about fundamentalist movements that raise anti-Western slogans, his majesty said extremism was not exclusive to Islam and that extremism feeds on extremism. His majesty asserted that Islam is a religion of moderation and that he was proud to be a Muslim.

The House Foreign Relations Committee showed understanding for the problems Jordan is facing. Committee members said they will support Jordan due its positive approach to the peace process and the democratic climate prevailing in the country. They also displayed understanding of Jordan's requirements for development and defense. The representatives applauded Jordan's experiment and hoped it would serve as a model for the region.

Later this evening, his majesty will conclude a three-day official visit to the United States by meeting with the chairman and members of the House Foreign Relations Committee.

Husayn, Clinton Hold News Conference

JN2206184894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Statements by King Husayn and President Bill Clinton during a news conference with unidentified correspondents at the White House on 22 June—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Clinton] First, I would like to welcome King Husayn back to the White House and to say how very much I support his courage and vision in renewing his efforts to make peace with Israel. I want to reaffirm the support of the United States for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Syrian track, and we will do whatever we can to keep those things going. And this remains a very important priority for me and for our administration, and I'm very encouraged by where we are now in the whole process, and especially by the efforts that King Husayn has made. And I'm looking forward to having a chance to discuss that with him.

[Correspondent] What are the chances, Mr. President and King Husayn, of a trilateral summit between you two and Prime Minister Rabin?

[Husayn] I don't think it is something that has been discussed as yet. But in the future [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, are you thinking of separate peace with Israel?

[Husayn] I'm thinking of the beginning of serious negotiation on the agenda that was ratified here in Washington as rapidly as possible, and this is what we expect at the [word indistinct] and the coming period. But beyond that we certainly would share with the President our hope that we will have a comprehensive peace in the entire region.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, according to the World Bank report, the economic conditions in Jordan are improving. Will this translate into funds and assistance? How do you anticipate that the United States will look into that [words indistinct] the improved conditions in addition to what the World Bank has said that you are doing great to the economic (?situation)...

[Husayn, interrupting] Well, we hope that amongst the many results of achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region will be a change in the quality of life of people in the region as a whole. So, without entering into any detail in that regard, I believe that, obviously, that area will be addressed in terms of the entire region and the opportunities that peace offers, when it comes, are tremendous.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Further on King's Comments

JN2306114594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Washington (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn and President Bill Clinton held talks at the White House at 1800, Jordan local time, yesterday, Wednesday. Senior Jordanian and U.S. officials attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President Bill Clinton affirmed the need to achieve comprehensive peace in the region. In statements to the press, during his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House yesterday, King Husayn said: We hope that a qualitative change in the life of people in the region will be one of the results of achieving a just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Asked about the possibility of convening a tripartite meeting between his majesty, the U.S. president, and the Israeli prime minister, his majesty said: I do not think that this has been discussed as yet. But in the future everything is possible. [passage omitted]

Asked about the possibility of holding a meeting with the Israeli prime minister, King Husayn said: I have no problem in terms of details. I hope the major topics of such a meeting will enable us to meet before too long. We, however, are now preoccupied with the topics on the agenda in order to resolve all problems on the ground in the region itself.

Therefore, whenever our delegates meet, there will be an opportunity to meet in the future. [passage omitted]

King Holds Talks With Senators

JN2306052294 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has met the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. Senate, Mr. Claiborne Pell, and a number of other senators. During the meeting at the Congress in Washington, Mr. Pell praised his majesty's wise leadership and his policy towards various regional and international issues.

His majesty said Jordan has always sought to bring about peace in the region, adding that serious work was to begin soon to solve all issues on the coming agenda with Israel, signed in Washington following the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. His majesty pointed that the coming phase is critical and sensitive, expressing hope of a new dawn in the region.

In answer to a question on Jordan's economy, his majesty the king told the senators that Jordan is rebuilding its economy and explained the impacts of the Gulf war on this economy. His majesty added that such crisis had left Jordan under the big burden of debts and voiced hope that peace would ease this burden.

On Arab coordination, his majesty expressed dissatisfaction for the lack of such coordination until now and stressed that Jordan is keen on solving all problems on all tracks so as to bring about a comprehensive peace capable of improving the standard of living for peoples of this region.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, his majesty told the U.S. officials that Jordan will do all it can to support Palestinian brethren and make their self-rule a success.

His majesty's meeting with the senators was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political and military advisers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

His majesty told reporters after the meeting that he discussed several issues of common interest with the U.S. senators and described the meeting as taking place in a friendly atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the White House issued a statement on his majesty the king's summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton last night. The statement said President Clinton discussed with King Husayn the peace process in the Middle East, in addition to regional developments and bilateral relations.

President Clinton praised the courage and vision of his majesty the king in pursuing peace with Israel and pledged ongoing U.S. support for the Mideast peace process. Mr. Clinton reaffirmed the support of the United States for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, including the Syrian track.

President Clinton also said the Mideast peace process remains a very important priority for him and for the administration and added that he was very encouraged by what has been achieved in the whole process.

King 'Surprised' by Syrian Criticism

JN2306065994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has said the Jordanian-Israeli talks, which will begin in the region next month, will be difficult, long, and serious, adding that their success will depend on Israel and whether it gives up the occupied Jordanian territory. He said that nothing justifies questioning the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement and its timing.

Interviewed by Radio Monte Carlo, King Husayn said: The movement on the Palestinian track makes it unreasonable for Jordan to lag behind. He repeated many times that it is time Jordan concentrated on guaranteeing its existence and continuation and on safeguarding its democratization option and political pluralism. King Husayn added that he was surprised by Syria's criticism of the agreement, expressing hope that the Jordanian-Syrian contacts will resume to discuss integration and cooperation between the two countries.

Syria, which viewed the agreement as a violation of Arab coordination—particularly following the visit to Damascus by the Jordanian monarch—canceled a scheduled visit to Amman by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Regarding the Syrian position, King Husayn said:

[Begin Husayn recording] In fact, I was surprised by the Syrian reaction. I have not heard anything from His Excellency brother Hafiz al-Asad on a personal level. We have been in continuous contact until the latest stage. I paid a visit to Damascus, we met, and we discussed all issues. Therefore, I believe the political dimension concerning the Middle East issues, as well as our decisive and pan-Arab issues, will be tackled on our level, myself and my brother the president.

Regarding the coordination in general, we used this term and did our utmost to achieve it. I am not here dealing with this issue in light of the recent Syrian stand, but in light of its basis, namely, the Jordanian-Palestinian situation. Our issues and interests are interlinked. So, we should be together in confronting the dangers facing us. Coordination in the full sense of the word has not been achieved yet on any level. Every now and then we ask the brothers how far they have gone in their talks, or we tell them where we are, if they ask.

Our brothers in Syria have their own definite and known problems concerning the occupied Syrian territory. We have our own problems. Coordination has not reached the level of minor details. They, in Syria, might have a longer breath in light of their circumstances, situation, and potentials. However, our issue and its interlinkage with the Palestinian issue made us discuss this issue. Jordan, Syria, the Palestinian brothers, and Lebanon started from the same point in Madrid. We are seeking a comprehensive peace. This, however, does not mean we relinquished our right to address our issues. We also do not assume that Syria will relinquish its right to address its issues. [end recording]

Comments Further on Pact

NC2306091494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, King Husayn of Jordan has stated that the latest Jordanian agreement with Israel comes within the framework of safeguarding the Kingdom of Jordan, its future, and borders. He tacitly admitted that this step was a kind of unilateral action. He said he was surprised by the Syrian reaction to the agreement, saying: Brother President Hafiz al-Asad knows me well and our relations are based on truthfulness and sincerity. King Husayn said that Arab coordination was mere talk without substance.

Bilateral Economic Talks Continue

JN2106150594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Talks between the Jordanian and U.S. officials, which began last night, continued this morning on the details related to bilateral relations.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency PETRA, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said that the two sides are currently discussing bilateral economic issues, adding that there is a good U.S. readiness to discuss the details of financial and economic issues.

He said: We will define the fields in which we can adopt serious and quick measures to strengthen Jordan's economy, revenues, and balance of payments.

He said a serious study is under way of Jordan's debt to the United States and other countries.

He said the meetings will continue over the next two days to complete discussion of the issues at the U.S. State Department and the headquarters of the Jordanian delegation.

Debt, Aid Discussed

JN2306074894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Report by 'Ali Hamati from Washington]

[Text] The joint Jordanian-U.S. committee held its first meeting at the U.S. State Department earlier today.

Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, who chaired the Jordanian side, said discussion revolved around the framework for the committee's action. The Jordanian foreign debt, particularly to the United States, is the most important topic on the agenda.

Dr. al-'Anani said it has been agreed to reassess the debt during the meetings that will be held within the context of the Paris Club in the future.

It was also agreed during the meeting, which was attended on the Jordanian side by Finance Minister Sami Qammuh and Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington, that the United States will do all it can to reschedule the largest possible amount of Jordanian debt for three years, taking into account an easing of the terms of rescheduling in terms of the period and the interest rate and to support Jordan's position on reducing the debt.

Dr. al-'Anani said it was agreed to study increasing U.S. aid to Jordan and that Jordan has made many proposals in this regard which the U.S. side promised to study in order to meet the feasible ones.

As regards the trade links, the information minister and head of the Jordanian side to this committee meetings said final arrangements have been set to lift the blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah. He said the meeting discussed the issue of increasing Jordan's exports to the United States, supporting the commercial centers, and the setting up of a joint chamber of commerce.

It was also agreed that the two countries' ambassadors in Amman and Washington will act as a liaison officers for the joint Jordanian-U.S. committee and that the committee will meet once every six months in Amman and Washington alternately.

The U.S. president stressed during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn his support to the Jordanian economic reforms and his country's support for Jordan's efforts to reduce its foreign debt.

The U.S. side to the joint committee meetings was chaired by Robert Pelletreau, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. It was attended on the U.S. side by representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State.

Palestinian Contractors Union Chief Discusses Cooperation

LD2206205994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Dawud al-Zir, chairman of the Union of Palestinian Contractors, held a news conference today in the press office of the embassy of the state of Palestine in Amman. The news conference was attended by a number of journalists and media figures.

During the news conference, brother al-Zir stressed that the Palestinian leadership, because of its great eagerness to preserve strong, brotherly Palestinian-Jordanian ties, wants to give Jordanian contractors an opportunity to work in the self-rule areas on an equal footing with their Palestinian brothers.

Mr. al-Zir called on Palestinian and Jordanian contractors to now join efforts; huge efforts are required to rebuild the infrastructure of Palestinian authority, destroyed by years of occupation. He stressed that the projects in the self-rule areas will be large and numerous and will encompass all aspects of life.

He added: The projects under proposal are large and beyond the capabilities of local contractors. We have worked together with our Jordanian brothers in several countries and we must work together again. As the economic agreement between Jordan and Palestine provides for free trade between the two countries, contracts should also be free from restrictions, he said. Brother al-Zir concluded by saying that the agreement to be signed by the two countries will include this fundamental issue so that Palestinian-Jordanian relations will be strong and free. He called on everyone to cooperate, bolster mutual interests, and coordinate the conditions of work.

Egypt Said To Warn Israel Against Further Attacks

NC2206140794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, 22 Jun (MENA)—The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR reports that the Egyptian Government has warned Israel through diplomatic channels against escalating the military situation in southern Lebanon and wrecking the entire peace process. The paper cites diplomatic sources as saying that the Egyptian warning to Israel came in the light of diplomatic information that the Israeli army is preparing to launch a military operation against Lebanon soon.

AL-SAFIR says that the Lebanese Government has received information that Israel is preparing for a military operation against Lebanon. The paper says that the Israeli General Staff is planning a military operation supervised by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who ordered that such an operation be quick and painful.

Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources say that Lebanese diplomatic circles are conducting intensive contacts with Arab and international quarters to contain the escalation of Israeli attacks against Lebanon.

The past few days have witnessed serious escalation in Israeli air and ground attacks against Hizballah positions in southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' as well as continuous Israeli shelling of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. These attacks left a number of civilians dead or wounded, destroyed many houses, and set crop fields on fire.

Radio Updates Israeli Bombardment, Overflights

NC2306064694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] According to reports from the south this morning, al-Nabatiyah, particularly the (Nadi al-Shaqif) area, came under an Israeli artillery barrage, killing a soldier and injuring another.

The Israeli enemy escalated its acts of aggression yesterday. Enemy artillery bombarded several areas in the south, creating severe tension in these areas amid reports from the occupied border strip on Israeli military movements inside the strip. According to security sources, Israeli enemy forces and agent militia [South Lebanese Army] [SLA] increased their military ground movements in the occupied strip and launched large raking operations in the woods and beside the roads. These sources noted that the enemy set up barriers beyond curves in the roads, and Israeli and SLA soldiers searched cars and interrogated passengers. In addition, the Israeli forces set up a new center east of Tallusah, which the resistance men attacked with rockets. Other enemy movements were spotted in the Hula area.

The UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] reports confirmed that the heavy Israeli bombardment continued yesterday and covered the western, central, and eastern sectors, noting that the UNIFIL areas of operation also came under the barrage, including the Fijian contingent area of operations in al-Mansuri, the Nepalese area in Rshaf, the Irish and Ghanaian area in Majdal Silm, and the Finnish area in Wadi al-Siryan. These acts of aggression were accompanied by hostile overflights over various sectors of the south. Israeli helicopters flew over the western sector of Tyre up to the international border from midnight until early this morning. The resistance retaliated by firing a number of missiles at the border strip.

U.S. Said Ready To Hand Over Fugitives

NC2206143194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, 22 Jun (MENA)—Informed Lebanese sources said today that the U.S. authorities have informed the Lebanese Government of their readiness to extradite a number of Lebanese people wanted in Lebanon on charges of participating in the Sayyidat al-Najah Church explosion and the assassination of Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, and his family. The sources said that the U.S. authorities asked the Lebanese Government to submit a complete file on the two crimes and the persons being sought. Among the fugitives who fled to the United States is Ghassan Tuma, head of the security apparatus of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party.

Lebanon has sent requests to Interpol to arrest 15 people indicted in connection with the church explosion and the assassination of Sham'un and his family. However, Lebanese judicial sources have not yet received any information that the fugitives have been arrested so they can be brought back to Lebanon for trial before the State Security Court.

The sources said that the bills of indictment in the two crimes will be referred to the Judicial Council within the next two days so that a date can be set for beginning the trial of the accused, led by Samir Ja'ja', former leader of the dissolve Lebanese Forces Party.

Al-Asad Receives Visiting Yemeni Official

JN2206144994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, at 1215 today. The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; and the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Damascus.

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani left Damascus following a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Rashid Akhtarini, the deputy prime minister for services affairs; and the Yemeni charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Voices Regret at Bloodshed

JN2206155494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, at 1215 today. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with the situation in Yemen. The president expressed Syria's regret for the course of events in Yemen as well as Syria's concern over the continued bloodshed. Syria, he added, appeals to all Yemeni brothers to cease fire and resort to dialogue. [passage omitted]

YSP Delegation Arrives To Brief al-Asad

JN2306121894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] A Yemeni delegation, led by Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], arrived in Damascus today. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Salim Salih Muhammad said: Our mission is to brief our brothers in sisterly Syria on the latest developments in Yemen, particularly the fierce fighting between the northern and southern parties. We would like to acquaint President Hafiz al-Asad with what is really taking place, particularly the need for abiding by cease-fire, stopping the bloodshed, and implementing the Security Council resolution. Hence, he added, we ask our Syrian brothers—in light of Syria's Arab and international influence—to help the Yemeni people stop the fighting, implement the Security Council resolution, abide by the internal, Arab, and international will, and embark on dialogue.

Minister: Jordan Deal Would Not Affect Syria

PM2106152294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p3

[Interview with Nabil al-Mallah, minister of state for people's assembly affairs, by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Humaydi] What results do you expect from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's coming tour of the region?

[Al-Mallah] Israel is still procrastinating. I cannot see it being serious in the negotiations, particularly on the Syrian track. Israel dallies in the negotiations with Syria. I am therefore not very optimistic about progress in the negotiations on the Syrian track, but Syria is serious about the peace process in accordance with the basis on which we participated in the Madrid conference. President Hafiz al-Asad emphasized at the Geneva summit that Syria is ready for full and comprehensive peace in return for full withdrawal and that peace is Syria's strategic option. Syria is serious about that.

[Humaydi] After the Oslo agreement and the developments on the Jordanian track, how do you view Arab coordination?

[Al-Mallah] Regrettably, coordination is not at the required level. There should have been full and effective coordination between all parties concerned with the peace process. There can be no doubt that the present Arab situation is not reassuring.

[Humaydi] In your view, what effect does this have on the Syrian track?

[Al-Mallah] Any separate agreement would ultimately affect the entire peace process but Syria has fixed principles in its dealings. No separate agreement between Jordan and Israel would affect the Syrian position because that position is clear. Syria wants full withdrawal in return for full peace. I do not believe a Jordanian-Israeli agreement would change anything as far as negotiations between Syria and Israel are concerned. [passage omitted]

Party Leaders Criticize King's Moves on Israel

JN2206115694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan yesterday said in Washington that a public meeting between himself and Israeli leaders is possible before signing an Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty. The Jordanian king told journalists that such a meeting is not a taboo and that there is nothing to prevent such a meeting.

Answering a question on the subject of visiting occupied Jerusalem, King Husayn said: There is much speculation about this point. I hope circumstances will allow a visit to the holy places in Jerusalem.

King Husayn did not deny press reports that he and his crown prince, Hasan, met secretly with Israeli leaders. He said there were no public meetings.

A Jordanian official has stated that the first official meeting between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin may be convened in October on the fringes of the ceremony to mark the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on border demarcation. The official, who preferred anonymity, said that a final agreement on border demarcation between Jordan and Israel may be reached in October. The signing ceremony, which will most probably take place in Washington, will, he said, provide an opportunity to hold an official meeting between the Jordanian king and the Israeli prime minister.

The official said there is nothing to prevent public meetings between senior Jordanian and Israeli officials after the signing on 7 June of the Jordanian-Israeli agreements on a detailed agenda for the bilateral talks, which are expected to lead to a peace treaty.

The official said a meeting between Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will precede the meeting between King Husayn and Rabin and may take place soon, when substantial progress in the talks over borders is achieved.

The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, and the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party have criticized the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on border demarcation, signed recently in Washington.

In a statement published in AL-HURRIYAH [published by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] yesterday, the leader of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party said the Israeli-Jordanian agenda is another step in the political capitulationist settlement plan and establishes the course of separate and bilateral solutions, represented by the Oslo-Cairo Agreement, or, in other words, dismantles what was left of Arab coordination for the benefit of Israel's separate dealing with each Arab state. He stressed that such a solution cannot be bilateral, but means, in political terms, the discussion of, and contribution toward, the process of settling the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons. The Jordanian bilateral drift in that direction falls within the context of the Israeli-U.S. policy that establishes the process to settle the refugees.

He said the Jordanian Government has placed the country in a dark political tunnel and establishes, with these policies, the course of subservience to the United States and the imperialist states and is avoiding the national solution and its Arab framework.

For his part, 'Azmi al-Khawaja, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity party, said the Oslo-Cairo agreement came as a great surprise to Jordan and confused it, thus causing it to bless that agreement. In order not to lose its role in the settlement plan, or have it marginalized, it hastened to sign the 7 June Agreement in Washington separately, after the 'Arafat wing of the PLO had done so.

He stressed that the agreement is yet another infiltration in the front of the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishes the principle of separate solutions. It also violates Jordanian national rights, the refugees issue, Jerusalem, and has established the principles for the start of the process of normalization with Israel on the political, economic, touristic, cultural, and security levels.

Al-Khawaja said the agreement will affect the march of democracy, and that the grip around the opposition forces will be tightened. The agreement will also link the Jordanian economy to the Israeli economy.

Muhammad al-Bashir from the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party said this separate solution will not be any better than the Oslo Agreement. He warned that the new trends by the Jordanian Government will fragment Arab ranks even further and increase the Arab losses.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Announces Condition for Herat Talks

LD2106175994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has announced that he would take part in the Herat talks only on the condition that all leaders of Afghanistan's jihadi parties attend these talks.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, Rabbani read out his political statement in Kabul today and asked for convention of a greater national assembly tasked with appointing the president and other key governmental posts.

Commentary Views Obstacles to Peace Talks

NC2206155494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] With under a week left of Borhanoddin Rabbani's presidential term, no dazzling breakthrough that could indicate a closeness among the rival factions' stances on future policy or government in Afghanistan has been perceived. The only important step taken in this regard is the proposal by Deputy Foreign Minister Jalil Shams for a conference in Herat in which the representatives of every group, apart from General Dostam's representative, will participate to discuss Afghanistan's future.

This proposal has reportedly been ineffective due to differences of opinion on whether General Dostam's representative should attend. This issue, along with the stances of Golboddin Hekmatyar and Borhanoddin Rabbani on the manner of the transfer of power after Rabbani's presidential term, has aggravated the existing differences.

Political observers predict that if these difficulties are not resolved in the next seven days, when Rabbani's tenure of office ends, Afghanistan will witness more intense clashes and bloodshed. Remember that continuing clashes—regardless of the pretext—will not be justifiable as far as the Afghan people are concerned. The military and political leaders of Afghanistan and the people should have realized by now, after two years of war and bloodshed, that military means can achieve no positive outcome. They have no option but to resort to other means.

If the rival factions in Afghanistan do not resolve their differences amicably they will answer to the Afghan people for the consequences of their actions. It appears that there is still a chance to reconcile differences. The Afghan groups should readjust their demands and should display flexibility and a regard for the rights of other groups. They should refrain from intransigence and should give priority to national interests over group interests and thus end the Afghan crisis.

Rabbani Says Ready To 'Hand Over Power'

LD2206204394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Rabbani has expressed his readiness to hand over power to a council of people's representatives. He refused to hand in his resignation in order to avoid a power vacuum in the country and said: Because a council formed of nine jehadi leaders is not sufficient to find the solution to country's problems, representatives of the people will also participate in the council. After failing to achieve a victory against the Islamic state and the failure of his coup d'etat, Golboddin persistently insists that Rabbani was appointed to the presidency under the Jalalabad agreement, and thus will relinquish power after his term expires. In response, the Afghan president has said that he does not insist on staying in power, and whenever a council is formed of the real representatives of the nation, he is ready to hand over power to them. [passage indistinct] On the one hand Golboddin alleges that no government exists and therefore is not in control anywhere. However, the people of Afghanistan, and especially the people of Kabul, recently saw the broad gathering of governors and jehadi personalities from different provinces. It is not clear why Golboddin cannot see this real and complete power. [passage omitted] He accuses the council, which is to be held in a few days, and continues his crimes as in the past. In order to satisfy himself even for a few moments and to forget the bitter memories of all his weaknesses and defeats, Golboddin bestows upon himself the presidency of the state of Afghanistan, and declares, completely shamelessly, that he is ready to relinquish the office of premiership. It is not known to which premiership he is referring. It is clear that Golboddin knows what he means more than anyone else, and knows how laughable his words are. Why has a person who kneels before the dirtiest figure in history [Dostam] and does not refrain from subservience to others for power, agreed to step down from the premiership? The best thing for Golboddin is to learn from the past. Because the removal of Ahmad Shah Masud from the Ministry of Defense did not help him, he will not benefit from handing over power to the representatives of the nation. The nation's representatives can very well distinguish a national personality from a foreigner's servant and can separate good and bad. Confidently, the upcoming choice of a national council will be nothing else.

Rabbani Addresses Social Organizations

LD2106225994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1625 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at a meeting of social organizations in Kabul on 21 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters, the peace and blessing of God be upon you. First of all I express thanks to you all, participants in this glorious meeting held on the initiative of all social organizations. Undoubtedly our persecuted and heroic nation more urgently needs peace now than at any other time. We must try and join hands so that peace may be restored throughout our beloved country. Our nation should no longer suffer from difficulties and from the fighting with which it is confronted now. Of course, we all know who started this fighting and whose hands are involved in causing the fighting to flare up in our country. We all know what sorts of conspiracy are under way on the other side of our borders, and we all know the evil intention behind them. Despite all these conspiracies guided from outside, it is our religious and national duty and mission to work hard, day and night, to end the fighting and to resort to all possible means at our disposal.

As far as the Islamic State of Afghanistan is concerned, the state has declared its righteous strategy for the restoration of peace. The Islamic State, in most difficult situations, has given a positive reply to the message of peace from wherever it came. We have been saying this all along, and we emphasize it again—fighting is not the way to solve the issues. We are now witness to the fact that our people in the capital and provinces have embarked on a broad-scale endeavor to prevent the fighting. We have seen that a large number of governors, commanders, and esteemed figures have come to the capital from various regions of our country and have expressed readiness for the solution of issues. Once again our people and the people of the world are waiting to see what actual steps we will take for the solution of the present difficulties and how we will resolve the problems we are facing. The Islamic State recognizes that all issues pertaining to the selection of leaders and political decisionmaking on behalf of the country are the right of the people of Afghanistan. The people themselves must make the decisions.

The people should themselves decide. In our meetings with governors we emphasized the point that Afghanistan does not want the continuation of its leadership and political domination, and despite the will of the people, it has never been and will never be [words indistinct]. The only thing we want is the presence of people's representatives on the scene so that we can transfer political power to them, and the people can decide about their leadership. Further anarchism, clashes, and misery do not engulf our nation.

We asked esteemed commanders and governors to convene, as soon as possible, a large gathering anywhere it is feasible, and to invite all jehadi leaders and our tribal elders, personalities from inside the country and abroad, to make a decision in a large gathering on the future of their country. The opponents and those who have chosen war as the only way of achieving their goals should be asked not to add to the pains of their oppressed people. They should participate in a people's gathering anywhere it is to be convened. And now, at the invitation of the southwest zone's commanders and the initiation of our mojahed brother Esmail Khan, governors and a number of commanders of the country, and political party leaders or their representatives will come together in ancient Herat.

The Islamic State's view is that all sides to the problem should participate in the gathering in ancient Herat. They should clearly express their views and proposals at this gathering and then let the people themselves decide. The decision of our people is surely a righteous decision. We should welcome the resolve and decision of our people. Any decision which is made by representatives of our nation, who come from different provinces of the country or from countries where they live as refugees and uprooted people, all those who participate in this gathering should respect the collective opinion of our people. We will let the people decide and resolve the future of their country, their political leadership, and their resolution will be respected by everyone.

We asked the UN and the conference of Islamic foreign ministers to actively participate in solving the Afghan problems. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, Afghanistan has been [word indistinct] by world institutions. [Words indistinct] and strategic importance of Afghanstan cannot be restricted only to the pre-war period. Afghanistan was not an important and hot point just during the presence of the former Soviet Union. However, after recent changes in the region, Afghanistan has emerged as an important and major and strategic country. Surely security in Afghanistan guarantees security in the region and security in the world. If war and chaos continue in Afghanistan, the region's countries cannot live in tranquillity and security. There are some sides who want Afghanistan to live in tension. Albeit, the international mafia, international terrorism, and various other sides seek their interests in Afghanistan's chaos, conflict, and insecurity. They want insecurity in Afghanistan in order that the cells of international terrorism and the international mafia—those who are engaged in activities for the expansion, trafficking, and production of drugs in the region and in the world—may benefit from this chaos and they want to keep Afghanistan permanently in a state of war and chaos. The main problems of the great powers—America, the European countries, and others—are the prevention of drug distribution, production and trafficking, and the campaign against terrorism. God forbid, if war and chaos continue in Afghanistan, terrorists will use Afghanistan and the areas under their control for terrorist activities in the region. Therefore, those countries that have completely closed the Afghan file, the countries that think Afghanistan is no longer of importance following the fall of the Soviet Union and Communism, will pay a heavy price. God forbid that insecurity should spread to other countries from the Afghan borders. If that were the case, not only would conflicts emerge in the region, but also many countries would face many problems. Thus, once again we want

great powers, international institutions, and the sides that are interested—interested in peace, interested in humane values—we ask them not to leave the Afghan nation alone in the current crisis, much of which has entered our country as illegitimate imported gifts from abroad.

Unfortunately even the humanitarian assistance to our people has been cut off for various incorrect reasons. We have been saying that there are conflicts in Afghanistan; however, there are not conflicts or clashes in all provinces. In over 25 provinces of the country reconstruction work is broadly under way. If reconstruction started all over the country at once; if our youths had the opportunity to be trained and educated properly; and if unemployment and lack of entertainment did not exist in our country, surely the seditious elements, consisting of selfish and adventurist people, could not manage to make use of the situation. Obviously, unemployment is one of the major factor for crime and conflict in human society. Our nation after the war lost almost all opportunities for social work and economic activities. Fighting and conflicts added to these difficulties.

Those who believe in human values and human dignity should not forget the heroic struggle of our nation and the debt they owe to the people of Afghanistan. The world should not forget that countries are now safe from the fear of communism which until yesterday could not sleep at night. Before the uprising of our heroic and Muslim nation most of the other nations were spending much of their colossal budgets on repulsing the communism danger and repulsing the danger posed by the Soviet Union; they did not feel safe. The sound of alarm, even in major cities, used to be heard every day warning against the danger of the possible launching of Soviet nuclear weapons and cruise missiles against major capitals of the world. Those days have gone. This confidence, this peace, and the new chapter that came into being in the world are the result of the unreserved self-sacrifice of our nation. The world should not forget the self-sacrifice of our nation and the enormous devotion shown by our nation, which brought about the gigantic change. We are witness to the fact that all the ingredients of the dangers that once threatened the world have not yet been eliminated. The seeds of danger are still seeking to spring to life in various regions, in particular in countries that want to revive once again the past ideologies that formerly put the world in danger. Afghanistan has surely preserved its strategic importance and once again we call on all countries and international institutions to extend their assistance for the solution of our people's difficulties.

We are hoping that our persecuted nation will emerge intact from this problem and from this crisis. We are hoping that our nation by its decisive resolutions will end the existing conflicts and difficulties in the near future, by sending its representatives to the national and Islamic shuras. We do not want to increase the life of the government (?even by one day). We are trying to take part in every meeting for political talks and solution of the issues by understanding, and to take part in every session for the resolution of problems. However, this subject must be once again cleared up. Our decisions today should not be rendered in the same way, or manner, as they were at the time when we were homeless or soon after [words indistinct] when decisions and resolutions were rendered within a limited framework, under the name of leadership council or guidance council. The decision-making platform must be withdrawn from the leadership council and revert to a large area and a large gathering. The jihadi leaders must not remain for ever as guardians or the nation's supervisors and be the only ones to resolve all issues. Their jihad and their struggles are respected by all. The leaders however must take part in people's gatherings and in national shuras as individuals, as representatives of the people. I believe that henceforth the jihadi leaders should not attend every gathering as eternal heirs of the revolutionary uprising. They must nominate themselves as candidates from provinces or districts; they must submit themselves to the people and come to a shura from a district or province, not on the grounds that he was a leader of a formation or group. Their jihad and their leadership of jihadi groups is deserving of respect and acknowledgement. However, they must submit themselves to their people and take part in the political campaign and in decision- making through the people. Therefore, the leaders of the parties should not henceforth insist on resolution of issues and problems to such an extent as to put themselves on the opposite side of the people.

These leaders should not set themselves against the aims, decisions, and will of the people. We are hoping that henceforth the sound of machine guns and rockets will not trouble our elders, children, and persecuted people. We are hoping that our country will not be further destroyed and our people dragged to slaughter by the hand of Afghans. Concerning the state, once again I declare we are hoping that a shura, which will be the center of decision- making, and the highest forum for the people to express their will, will be convened as soon as possible. The state will extend every cooperation in this respect. We do not want to take part in the convocation of shura although normally the state takes a direct part in the convocation of shura; we will leave this task to the people; we will leave it to neutral sides; we leave it to the provinces; we leave it to the peace delegations. Whatever plan and program they design and implement we will support. We have asked the peace delegations—and once again we call on them—to accelerate the process for the restoration of peace and take serious action for the convocation of the shura. The state will only extend its cooperation and prepare the ground to facilitate their activities, but will not interfere in their activities. They can freely accomplish their work. I am hoping that the various parties will not continue fighting under any pretext; they must all join hands so that peace may be restored in our country. Once again I sincerely express thanks to all who are here at this session. [passage omitted]

Iran

'Definite Information' Reported on Shrine Explosion

LD2206172194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Our intelligence minister ['Ali Fallahian] has sent a telegram to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, expressing condolences for the tragedy of the desecration and bomb explosion at Imam Reza's shrine. He declared the intention of the intelligence, military, and law enforcement forces to identify and arrest the black-hearted perpetrators as soon as possible.

The telegram reads: So far, definite information has been obtained toward the apprehension of the perpetrators of the crime and is being seriously followed up. It is hoped that the mercenary criminals will be arrested and punished for their shameful deeds as soon as possible.

Besharati Claims Suspects Arrested

LD2306111094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent today Interior Minister Besharati divulged more information on the recent bomb explosion by the terrorist group, the hypocrites [monafeqin—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq], at Imam Reza's shrine.

Referring to the fact that the number of martyrs in the incident was 24, the Interior Minister said: Nine of the martyrs were from Mashhad and 15 were from other towns. He said the amount of explosives used was 10 lb, about 4.5 kg, of the C-4 variety. He added: The bomb's timer was set for 10 minutes.

He added: Thus far a number of suspects have been arrested in this connection.

Velayati Hits UN 'Double Standards'

LD2306092994 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, June 23, (IRNA)—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati criticized the application of double standards and failure of a number of apparent advocates of the politically charged international campaign against terrorism to curb the activities of the terrorist Mojahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO).

In a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali submitted to him Wednesday [22 June] by Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi, Velayati referred to the June 20 terrorist bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad.

He underlined that the failure of the advocates of international campaign against terrorism to curb the activities of the MKO terrorist group has not only encouraged the continuation of such acts of blind terrorism, but also put their own commitment to combat this international menace into serious question.

"The massive explosion caused the martyrdom of at least 26 and severe injury of over 170 innocent pilgrims, including many children, elderly and women", the letter said.

It further called on the U.N. secretary-general to consider the General Assembly's Resolution 48/122 of 20 December 1993 urging the international community to enhance cooperation in the fight against the threat of terrorism at national, regional and international levels.

Moreover, the eleventh ministerial meeting of Non-aligned Movement (NAM) held in Cairo urged that this international campaign should be directed without discrimination or double-standards against "terrorism wherever, by whoever and against whomever it occurs."

It is the responsibility of all states to live up to their international commitments in our common endeavor to eradicate terrorism, Velayati said.

He added that it was possible to eradicate terrorism through joint endeavor of all states by not only condemning this cowardly act of inhumanity, but also investigating whether their official institutions, their nationals or their territories were used by this terrorist organization for the commission, planning, financing, instigating or supporting this crime and take appropriate and effective measures accordingly.

Commentary Links Israeli Attacks, Christopher Visit

NC2206152594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The Zionist regime's aggressing warplanes carried out further military operations in south Lebanon last night in conjunction with intense attacks on residential areas by their artillery deployed in the occupied areas in the south. This resulted in human and material losses among the civilian population.

This was the third aerial attack by the Zionist regime's fighter bombers on Lebanon's residential areas in the past two days following the valiant operations by the Islamic Resistance against the Zionist usurpers. On 'Ashura, the combatants of the Islamic Resistance attacked the Zionist aggressors inside the areas they occupy, emulating the lord of the martyrs.

Instead of the Zionist regime terminating its 16-year occupation of the border strip in south Lebanon under

pressure of international public opinion—by withdrawing—it continues its policy of blind terrorism with the support of foreign and international powers. The Zionist regime attacks residential areas in a blind and cowardly manner with its bombers and artillery. The Zionist regime's pretext for these acts of aggression and the repeated violation of international norms is that it is combating the cells of the Islamic liberation struggle against the usurpers. In reality, the Zionist regime is pursuing other political objectives.

Political experts believe that the Tel Aviv echelons are striving to bare their fangs and talons in these operations before the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East. This visit implies that the wheels of diplomatic machinery have been set in motion and therefore the Zionist regime—this uninvited and inauspicious guest in the region—feels that before he arrives it should show off its fangs and talons to its host country to impose peace from a position of strength.

It is no coincidence that at the same time as the bombing of south Lebanon the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin should participate directly in military maneuvers in the occupied Golan Heights, which belong to Syria. Interesting that during these maneuvers Rabin expressed his dissatisfaction with the current talks in Washington and called for direct talks with Syria.

It can be concluded from such behavior that the occupying Zionist regime is first willing to embark on all kinds of atrocities and second is also enjoying international immunity and the support of world powers in this regard. The Lebanese Government has realized the regime's political objectives and has adopted a completely appropriate stance by extending its serious support to the anti-Zionist resistance as the country's legitimate right. This means that the Zionist regime will reap nothing from these crimes but disgrace.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Policy on Gulf, Yemen

NC2306092794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] International and regional schemes aspiring to divide Yemen and revive its pre-unity conditions are making gradual headway. Tens of thousands have been killed, wounded, or displaced in Yemen, north and south. U.S. political pressure, aided and abetted by Arab regimes, is slowly but surely wrecking Yemen's national sovereignty and wrenching its land apart.

Keeping particular countries weak, in disgrace, and dependent upon foreign assistance is the hallmark of the policy the United States has been vigorously pursuing in the region since the oil [Gulf] war, a policy pursued even more adamantly in the southern Gulf states.

The United States recently imposed humiliating terms on the shaykhs of southern Gulf states, forcing their governments, not particularly known for a firm political will, to end the political and economic embargo of the Zionist, Jerusalem-usurping entity.

Stripping Arab states in the southern Gulf region of dignity, integrity, and political will has become a trademark of U.S. policy in that area. The corrupt regimes in Riyad and Cairo support this policy, dragging along, willy nilly, Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Seen from this angle, the U.S. position on the Yemeni crisis is easily explained. The United States wants Yemen weak, poor, divided, and, in both its parts, dependent upon foreign assistance. This is the subservient state in which the United States likes to keep most of the agent governments that do its gambling in the Middle East.

Mission to UN: Assets Worth Billions Frozen in U.S.

LD2306093194 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, June 23, IRNA—Iran termed as false the testimony made by a U.S. official that there were no Iranian assets in the United States which could be released.

In a press release Wednesday [22 June], the Iranian mission at the United Nations stressed that several billion dollars of Iranian assets and properties in the United States have been frozen by the U.S. Administration.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau had falsely testified that the United States had no forzen Iranian assets except what might be available to the U.S. Claims Commission.

He made the statement in the hearing of the Europe and the Middle East subcommittee of the house of foreign affairs committee on June 14 in response to repeated questions about the existence of any Iranian assets that had been frozen in the United States.

The press release said that the fund which was made available to the (US) Claims Commission represented the settlement amount for the small claims, an issue totally distinct from Iranian assets frozen by the United States.

Terming the testimony as false, the press release said that apart from different types of Iranian properties which have been blocked in the United States, three major categories of Iran's assets are still in the United States which have not been released to Tehran and have neither been put at the disposal of the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal.

It added that the Iranian assets which are in the US include: (i) the remaining balance in the Foreign Military

Sales Fund (FMS trust funds) (ii) Funds of Iranian diplomatic mission and (iii) balance of stand-by letters of credit issued by U.S. banks on the account of US companies in favour of Iranian Government entities, including but not limited to down payments, good performance guarantees and commercial letters of credit.

The press release also said that in addition to blocking some Iranian military and non-military properties including those of Iranian diplomatic missions, the United States has, in violation of its undertaking under the Algiers Accords, refused to return to Iran its remaining assets and continues to hold them in the United States.

It stressed that the total value of the items exceeds several billion U.S. dollars.

Tehran Views King Husayn's Visit to U.S.

LD2206204894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan, who was in Washington, has met and conferred with the U.S. President, Bill Clinton, today, Wednesday June 22. The two sides discussed the trend of the Middle East peace talks during their half-hour meeting at the White House, which took place on the invitation of the U.S. President.

King Husayn's private visit to the U.S. is taking place at a time when the Jordanian government delegation, during its June 7 meeting with the Zionist regime delegation in Washington, reached agreements on defining the border lines, sharing water and economic issues. The agreements were reached during the presence of the U.S. representatives. Meanwhile King Husayn has also recently announced his willingness to meet the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, and bilateral talks are expected to be held in Amman and Tel Aviv next month.

According to political experts, the fresh Amman-Tel Aviv agreement has come along with the U.S. and the Zionist regime's designs to create division among the ranks of the Arab countries. The Israeli regime in the wake of the Gaza-Ariha [Jericho] accord, which was signed last September, and in view of the opposition expressed by certain regional countries, has been trying to create division among the Arabs through different means and with backing of the U.S. In this connection one of the ways that the main ally of the U.S.—that is, Israel—is pursuing is to strike separate deals with each of the Arab countries secretly.

From the outset of the Madrid peace talks, the Zionist regime has tried to break the framework of the negotiations and have separate accords with each one of the Arab sides. The Gaza-Ariha accord was the first step taken in this regard and the recent accord between Jordan and Israel can be cited as being part of the same continuing trend. Political analysts believe that the continuation of such a trend is considered to be an all-sided pressure that Israel and the United States are putting on the other parties in the peace talks that do not agree with the trend. Therefore, although King Husayn is visiting the United States with the aim of activating the trend of peace talks with Israel, the trend of developments, especially during the recent months, speaks of conditions that favor Tel Aviv.

As a matter of fact what is being shaped is the continuation of the trend of compromise in which Israel will be taking more and more concessions from the Arabs.

Envoy to UN Accuses Iraq of Border Violations

LD2106084394 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, June 21, IRNA—Iran held Baghdad responsible for the aggressions of Iraqi-based counter-revolutionaries on Iranian territory and said that the government of Iraq would be responsible for its consequences. Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to the U.N. secretary general termed the June 4th infiltration of counter-revolutionary elements into the Iranian territory as explicit violation of the cease-fire between the two countries.

According to the letter, a number of counter-revolutionary elements crossed the border and penetrated 4 kilometres inside the Iranian territory in Ilam Province and opened fire on the Iranian forces on Eyn-Ghazal and south Halaleh road. As a result, two Iranians were martyred and four others, including one sergeant and three soldiers, were captured by them.

Council Approves Privatization of Services

LD2206104494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] In its session yesterday the Supreme Administrative Council [SAC], which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, approved the assignment to the private sector of part of the tasks of the government sector, particularly general and service tasks.

Under the approval, all ministries and government-affiliated organizations, institutions and companies—which are covered by the law provided they are mentioned by name—are given five years to take steps to hand over general and service tasks to the private sector.

Under the approval all sectors can hand over their service tasks to cooperatives which have been set up with the participation of government employees who have been made redundant. They are to afford them the necessary cooperation and give them priority when awarding contracts.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepali Ruling Party Chief Demands Koirala's Removal

BK1806075494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 17 (AFP)—The head of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party Friday [17 June] again called for the removal of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, a party source said.

Ganesh Man Singh returned to the capital Friday after launching a five-day "Remove Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and save democracy" campaign in south-western Nepal. Singh also boycotted an NC Central Working Committee (NCCWC) meeting which was attended by the prime minister and other NC members including party president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The NCCWC meeting was held 10 weeks after its last meeting at which the committee authorized Bhattarai to take action against Koirala for his alleged role in upsetting Bhattarai's election chances in a February by-election.

Bhattarai supporters have said that speeches made prior to the election by Koirala were detrimental to the party chief and damaged his election chances. But at the meeting the party chief appeared to signal a change in his stand, party sources said.

"Bhattarai had earlier wanted to remove Koirala for the deceptive role played against him but now he seems to be growing a soft corner for the prime minister," a highly placed NC source said. "Now Singh is not happy with Bhattarai because he is trying to save Koirala's head," the source said.

The next meeting of the NCCWC is scheduled to be held in Pokhara, west of here, on June 22 after it ended Friday inconclusively, the source said.

During his five-day whirlwind tour Singh spoke to party rank and file, attacking the prime minister's alleged failings and the "deceptive role" played by Bhattarai who, he said, was trying to save Koirala. Singh told the NC youth members, activists and district leaders that he would not compromise on the issue.

"If Koirala continues to be in office for the remaining two years, the Nepali Congress will lose the May 1996 general elections, not to talk of getting a two-thirds majority of votes," Singh said.

Ruling Party Leader Collapses at Airport

BK2106005994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 20 (AFP)—The supreme leader of the ruling Nepali Congress party, Ganesh Man Singh, underwent an urgent medical checkup here Monday [20 June] after collapsing at Bharatpur airport, a party source said.

Singh, 79, was rushed to Kathmandu aboard an army helicopter from Bharatpur in Chitwan district, 160 kilometres (100 miles) southwest of here, after falling from a revolving chair and suffering a dizzy spell, the source said.

He had been on a political tour campaigning against Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.

"The supreme leader has regained consciousness," the source said.

A team of eight doctors is looking after Singh while another group scanned the posterior part of his head and neck using a CAT-Scan machine to check for internal bleeding, said the source.

Many of Singh's sympathizers gathered outside the hospital to inquire about his condition.

New Party To Push for Rights in Bhutan

BK2106142394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 21 Jun 94

[Text] Kathmandu, June 21 (AFP)—A new party was formed here Tuesday [21 June] by a group of Bhutanese to push for human rights and an independent judiciary in their homeland.

The Druk National Congress (DNC), made up of people from the north and eats of the country known as Druks, plans to fight for free speech, freedom from oppression, among other things, DNC Chairman Rongthang Kunley Dorji told a press conference here.

"You are all aware that these freedoms do not exist in Bhutan and it is this fact that has left us with no other recourse except to launch a body whose aim is to bring recognition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Bhutan and also protect these rights under ... an independent judiciary," Dorji said.

"Due to lack of human rights and an independent judiciary, the situation in present day Bhutan has deteriorated to such an extent that the citizens are treated as 'oxen without horns' and forced to live under very oppressive conditions by the regime," he said.

Dorji said they had formed the party in Nepal instead of India as New Delhi has an extradition treaty with Bhutan.

"If we were found raising voice against the Bhutanese king or the government, we may be immediately deported to Bhutan to be handed over to the Bhutanese Government," he said.

More than 100,000 Bhutanese of Nepalese descent are currently living in refugee camps run by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees after fleeing their country following the imposition of laws forcing them to adopt Bhutanese customs or face punishment.

Pakistan

President on Politics, Nuclear Program, Missiles

BK2306044894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has called upon the government and the opposition to negotiate their political differences and sort out the important critical issues facing the nation. In an interview last night, he said what is needed now is for both sides to sit together and evolve a joint strategy to reach a consensus on such major issues as Kashmir, the nuclear program, and economic stability.

Refuting the opposition's allegation that he is biased, the president said he resigned from the Pakistan People's Party following his election as president because of an evident polarization in the country's political environment. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said the country's political structure is such that nobody can bargain on important issues of national interest. Matters relating to the country's security and economic affairs are fully under the government's control.

On the nuclear program, the president said that Pakistan's nuclear program is peaceful. He added that Pakistan has made several proposals to India, including the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in South Asia. The president asked the United States and the United Nations to take note of India's expanding missile program, which could start a regional missile race.

Answering a question, the president said the armed forces played their role in conducting free and fair elections and they are in favor of democracy in the country.

On the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution [giving discretionary powers to the president to dismiss the government and dissolve the National Assembly], the president said he has expressed his desire to abrogate it many times.

Foreign Minister Proposes Afghan Solution

94AE0135A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan and Ra'fit Yahya from Islamabad and by 'Abdallah al-Haj from Jeddah: "Pakistan Foreign Minister to Saudi Arabia With Proposal on Afghan Crisis"]

[Text] Developments on the Afghan front accelerated yesterday, on the eve of the end of President Borhanoddin Rabbani's term. Pakistan has undertaken a new initiative to prevent a likely deterioration in the situation, now that opponents to Rabbani have threatened to launch a new campaign to isolate him should he insist upon retaining his position after the 28th of this month. Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali arrives in Saudi Arabia today for talks on this subject with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

In a major parallel development, Afghani Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar held a meeting yesterday at his office south of Kabul, with the ruler of the province of Herat, Esma'il Khan, after which the two sides agreed to launch an initiative to form a government of national unity within 12 days of the end of the Afghani president's term. Ismail Khan left in the evening for the capital to meet with Rabbani and to inform him of the initiative that would open the major roads to Kabul after verifying a ceasefire in its suburbs.

Informed sources in Islamabad report that the initiative of Ismail Khan, well-known for his impartiality, which has dispelled the specter of war from his regions, enjoys Pakistani support. The initiative stipulates the participation of all the mojahedin parties in the interim government, which will organize general elections as early as possible and disqualify the (formerly communist) militias from the new formula for governing.

Moderate Afghani sources did not rule out that the Pakistani foreign minister would show his support for the initiative, especially as Hekmatyar is a party to it, because of the support Islamabad still provides him. Afghani sources indicated the importance of the position stated by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Akram Zaki, who emphasized the need for the Afghani president to stick to the agreement, in terms of the duration of his term, especially as the countries affected by the Afghani situation have backed the agreement.

Informed sources in Islamabad have told AL-HAYAH that the Pakistani minister will bring this subject up for discussion in his meeting with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The same sources added that the Pakistani minister would emphasize, in the meeting with his Saudi counterpart, Islamabad's insistence that all Saudi and Islamic humanitarian aid to Afganistan be routed through its Pakistan's territory.

They thought it likely that this position would be the focus of debate among Afghani ranks, especially as Afghan officials believe that Kabul and Herat are capable of taking delivery of the aid from the Muslim world. Officials believe that the direct delivery of aid to Afghanistan will be of help in the speed and distribution to the needy, and in helping it to reach specific sites.

The Pakistani minister will discuss the efforts being made to achieve total reconciliation among the mojahedin leaders, with the officials he will meet in Saudi Arabia.

Afghani Government sources told AL-HAYAH that Saudi Arabia is inclined to expand the framework of participation for Afghan leaders in decisions to ensure its implementation. At the same time, Pakistan still sees Hekmatyar as the major player, and perhaps the only one, on the Afghan scene. This has influenced the positions of numerous Muslim countries who criticize the imposition of certain figures on the Afghan scene.

The fear of observers in a number of capitals affected by the Afghan question is that Pakistan will go too far in its

pressure on Rabbani and its support for Hekmatyar, particularly if Ismail Khan fails to persuade the Afghani president to accept what the ruler of Herat and prime minister have agreed to.

An informed Pakistani source told AL-HAYAH that the possibility for holding a peace conference in Islamabad, and the formation of a transitional government in Kabul, would be among the 10 points the Pakistani foreign minister would discuss with Saudi officials. The source said that the proposed peace conference would be along the lines of the Islamabad conference held in March of last year.

The same source indicated that the Pakistani proposal was the same one Hekmatyar had advanced in a press conference held in Jalalabad (eastern Afghanistan) last Friday [10 June], and said it was a means for finding a comprehensive solution to the Afghan question.

Not Comfortable

The Pakistani source reaffirmed that his country is not comfortable with the Afghani president's position, that he would remain in power until the end of this year, according to resolutions adopted by a local consultative council held at his invitation two years ago. In the press conference the day before yesterday, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated that the Pakistani foreign minister would go to Jeddah to meet with the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, to discuss the Pakistani proposals, and would then proceed to Iran with the same purpose.

Spokesman: Prithvi Test Set Off 'Missile Race'

BK0506124794 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan said Saturday [4 June] that by test-firing its short-range ballistic missile India has unleashed a race of sophisticated weapons in South Asia.

The Pakistani reaction came hours after India test-fired Prithvi, which can carry a payload of one ton up to 190 km (150 miles), in the bay of Bengal.

"By test-firing the missile India has brought all major Pakistani cities, except the southern most city of Quetta, under its range," said Munir Akram, a spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office.

He said India was also looking for locations to test-fire the medium range Agni missile which can carry a payload of one ton up to 2,400 km.

On his return from a visit to the United States on Friday president Farooq Leghari told reporters that he has conveyed Pakistan's concerns to the US administration over India's efforts to deploy medium-and short-range missiles in the region.

"It is a new phase in the arms race in South Asia. It will now unleash a missile race in the region," said Akram.

The deployment of these missiles, according to him, will shorten the warning time of any surprise attack against Pakistan down to a few minutes "and, therefore, increase the hair-trigger environment in South Asia".

He said Pakistan has advised all countries concerned, especially the members of the Missile Technology control Regime, to urge India not to go ahead with the development and deployment of these missiles.

He said Pakistan had so far been talking to the United States and had established no direct contact with India over the matter "but we will consider other diplomatic options as well".

'Missile Balance Sheet' With India Published

BK2006050794 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jun 94 p 4

[Article: "Pak, India Missile Balance Sheet"]

[Text]

India 1. APEX (Soviet-origin) air to air fire-and-forget, maximum range 35 km with high explosive war-head up to 40 kg.
2. APHID (Soviet-origin) air-to-air fire-and-forget, maximum range 7.5 km with high explosive war-head upto 6 kg.
3. AS-30/AS 30L (French-origin) air-to-surface, installed on ships and hard installations, maximum range 11 kms with high explosive semi-armour piercing war-head upto 240 kg.
4. ATOLL (Soviet-origin) air-to-air maximum range 6.5 km with blast fragmentation war-head up to 6 kg.
5. GANNFUL SA-6 (Soviet-origin) surfaces-to-air mobile launcher, targets aircrafts, maximum range is 60 km at high-altitude, 30 km at low altitude with high explosive war-head up to 80 kg.
6. GASKIN SA-9 (Soviet-origin) surface-to-air, mobile launcher, targets aircrafts, maximum range 8 km with 2.5 kg high explosive war-head.
7. GECKO SA-8 SA-N-4 (Soviet-origin) surface-to-air, mobile launcher, targets aircraft, maximum range 40.8 km with 50 kg high explosive war-head.
8. GOA (SA-3, SA-N-1) (Soviet-origin) surface-to-air mobile launcher, targets aircrafts, max range 35 km with high explosive blast war-head of 50 kg.
9. GRAIL (SA-7 and SA-N-5) (Soviet-origin) surface-to-air, shoulder-fired, targets aircraft, fire-and-forget, maximum range 10,000 m with 2.5 kg high-explosive fragmentation war-head.
10. GUIDELINE (SA-2 SA-N-2) surface-to-air, fired from mobile launcher, targets aircraft max range 50 km with 130 high explosive war-head (Soviet-origin), (one model is reputed to have a N-war-head).
11. HQ2J, surface-to-air, fired from mobile launcher and targets aircraft, max range 52 Km with 130 kg high explosive improved fragmentation.

12. KERRY-AS-7 (Soviet-origin) air-to-surface, fired from aircraft and targets ships, vehicles and other battle-field targets, maximum range 11 km with 100 kg high explosive war-head.
13. MAGIC (R.550, Magic-11) (French-origin) air-to-air, fire-and-forget, max range 10 km with 12.7 kg high explosive pre-fragmented war-head.
14. MILAN (European-origin) surface-to-surface, launched from mobile launcher or by man, targets tanks and vehicles, max range 2000 metres with 10.3 CM dia hollow charge war-head.
15. SAGGER (AT-3, Millutka) (Soviet-origin) air-to-surface and surface to surface, can be launched from aircraft, helicopter, mobile launcher and by men, targets vehicles and tanks, it has max range of 3000 metres with 3 kg hollow charged high explosive war-head.
16. SA-N-4 (Soviet-origin) surface-to-air, launched from ships to target aircraft, max range 14.8 km with 50 kg war-head.
17. SEA CAT TIGERCAT (GWS-20, 21, 22 and 24) (UK-origin) surface-to-air, can be launched from ships and mobile launcher, targets aircraft and other missiles, max range 5.5 km with high explosive continuous rod war-head.
18. SEA EAGLE (P-3) UK-origin, air-to-surface, surface-to-surface, can be launched from ships, aircraft and helicopters, targets ships, max range more than 100 km, fire-and-forgets, carries war-head of 200 kg.
19. SEA SKUA (UK-origin) air-to-surface, and surface-to-surface, targets ships, can be launched from ships, aircraft and helicopter, maximum range from 15 to 25 km with high explosive armoured upto estimated height of 20 to 30 kg.
20. STYX (SS-N-2a, b, and c) (Soviet-origin) surface-to-surface launched from the ships and targets the ships, maximum range from 40, 80 kms, fire-and-forget, with high explosive war-head from 400 kg to 300 kg.

Locally developed missiles by India
Agni, Prithvi, Trishol, Nag, Akash.

Missiles with Pakistan
1. ASROC (RUR-5A) (US-origin), surface-to-surface, ballistic, launched from ship, targets ships and submarines, max range 20 to 10 km, torpedo 11 km with high explosive war-head of 44 kg.
2. COBRA MUMBA (VO810) (German-origin), surface-to-surface, launched from mobile launcher, man and ground emplacements, max range 2000 metres with two war-heads of 2.7 kg.
3. CROTALE (R-44) (French-origin), surface-to-air, launched from ships and mobile launchers, targets ships and missiles, max range 8 km with 14 kg high explosive focused fragmentation war-head.
4. EXOCET-AIR (AM-39) (French-origin), air-to-surface launched from aircraft, targets ships, fire-and-forget, maximum range 50 to 70 km with 165 kg high explosive shaped charge war-head.
5. HARPOON (AGM-RGM-UGM-848) (US-origin), air-to-surface and surface-to-surface, fire-and-forget, can be launched from ships including submarines and aircraft, targets ships, max range 100 km with 222 kg high explosive blast penetration war-head.
6. MAGIC (R550 MAGIC-2) (French-origin), air-to-air, fire-and-forget, maximum range 10 km with 12.7 kg high explosive pre-fragmented war-head.
7. MAVERICK (AGM-65A-B) (US-origin), air-to-surface, can be launched from aircraft, targets hard installations, soft installations, vehicles and tactical targets, fire and forget max range 20 to 40 km with 56 kg shaped charge, high penetration, high explosive war-head.
8. MISTRAL (French-origin), air-to-air, surface-to-air, can be launched from ships, aircraft, mobile launchers, and by man. Shoulder-fired, targets aircraft, max range 6000 metres with 3 kg high explosive war-head.
9. R530 (French-origin), air-to-air, fire-and-forget, max range 18 km with 27 kg inter-changeable high explosive war-head.
10. SIDEWINDER (US-origin), air-to-air, fire-and-forget, maximum range 3000 to 6000 metres, with high explosive war-head evolving into continuous rod and blast fragmentation.
11. STINGER (US-origin), air-to-air, surface-to-air, fire-and-forget, can be launched from ships, aircraft and helicopter, mobile launcher, targets aircraft, maximum range 5 km with high explosive fragmentation with a smooth fragmenting casing.
12. TOW (US-origin), air-to-surface, surface-to-surface, can be launched by mobile launcher and helicopter, targets are vehicles and bunkers, max range 3.7 km with 3.9 kg high explosive shaped charge war-head.

Spokesman Blames India for Kashmiri's Death

BK2206144994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jun 94

[Text] Pakistan has condemned the assassination of a prominent Kashmiri leader and scholar, Mirwaiz Dr. Qazi Nissar Ahmed, in Anantnag-Islamabad. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman described the murder of Qazi Nissar Ahmed as an act of terrorism which, he said, is the handiwork of Indian agencies. The spokesman said the Indian intelligence agencies have chalked out a sinister plan to eliminate religious and political leadership in occupied Kashmir in order to fragment the Kashmir struggle.

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